

Suicides soar as psychiatrists strike in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of suicides in Israel has doubled during a two-month strike by state psychiatrists, a committee for the strikers said Monday. A total of 60 people took their own lives in May and June, compared to just 15 in April, said Hana Sturm, a spokeswoman for the strikers. She said a further seven people had committed suicide in the first week of July, and that the number of mental patients requiring physical restraint to prevent violence had risen by 80 per cent in May and June compared with the previous two months. Ms. Sturm said the quantity of medication consumed, especially tranquillisers, had also risen by 40 per cent during the strike. The health ministry said it was carrying out research to look at the impact of the strike on the health of mental patients. State psychiatrists are demanding a substantial salary increase.

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Arafat heads to London for Blair meeting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat left here Monday for London for his first meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, one of his aides said. Mr. Arafat was to meet Mr. Blair and British Foreign Minister Robin Cook Monday evening for talks on the peace process with Israel. Nabil Abu Rudeina said. The head of the Palestinian National Authority will also visit Austria to meet officials there, Mr. Abu Rudeina told Agence France Presse. "The Palestinians rely greatly on European action to save the peace process," he added. Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have been on hold for four months in a crisis over Israel's building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Military hotel hit in rocket attack in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — A rocket was fired at a downtown military hotel Monday, injuring one person. An anonymous caller to newspapers and news agencies, claimed responsibility on behalf of the left-wing Revolutionary People's Salvation Party-Front, the Anatolia News Agency said. The group is responsible for several killings and bombings. The attack caused minor damage on the wall of the 13th floor and shattered some windows, according to Anatolian.

Secret oriental fish protecting Israel's water

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has imported top-secret fish from the Far East to detect any possible contamination of the country's water supply, the Israeli national water company Mekorot revealed Monday. The 20-centimetre fishes, which the company insisted had to remain anonymous, give off a detectable electric charge as soon they sense the presence of any poisons in the water. Mekorot chairman, Amos Epstein, said he could not reveal the identity of the fish for "security reasons." "For security reasons I very much regret that the use of these fish has been made public," he said, refusing to comment further.

Netanyahu appoints his adviser as U.N. ambassador

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel Monday appointed Dore Gold, a close adviser of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as its ambassador to the U.N., officials said. The appointment of Mr. Gold comes on the eve of a vote in the U.N. General Assembly in New York calling for economic sanctions against Israel because of its settlement policy. Mr. Gold replaces Gad Yacobi who left the job 15 months ago, and he is expected to fly to New York late Monday to be present during the debate. His nomination to the post had been mooted many months ago, but the appointment was held up by a simmering row between Mr. Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy, who was upset at being excluded from a range of foreign policy decisions and appointments.



Palestinian policemen lined up at the center of Hebron city in the West Bank Monday. Around 200 Palestinian police deployed in the center of Hebron after a late night meeting with Israeli troops aimed at quelling more than a month of rioting (AFP photo)

Palestinian police move to cool Hebron clashes; stores reopen

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinian police moved to dampen five weeks of violent protests in Hebron Monday by deploying in force around the city's riot-torn centre for the first time since the clashes erupted. Around 200 uniformed police gathered on the dividing line between the Palestinian and Israeli-controlled zones of the West Bank city, where clashes have injured some 300 people in the past five weeks, witnesses said.

In return, the Israeli army allowed Arab market stalls in areas under its control to remain open for the first time in five days.

The measures, which brought calm to the streets of Hebron early Monday, followed a late-night meeting between the commander of the Israeli garrison and senior Palestinian police officers, officials from both sides said.

They also came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Palestinians Sunday to rein in violent anti-Israeli protests across the West Bank or pay a heavy price.

Colonel Sharif Abu Meailaq, head of security forces in Hebron, said the police deployment was to counter the "Israeli conspiracy" of the putative blockade and security measures clamped on the West Bank city 10 days ago.

"We want the Palestinians to feel they are secure and to know that the [Palestinian] Authority is in control," he told Agence France Presse.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said the army "could lift other restrictive measures" currently affecting the movement of the city's 120,000 Arab population if the area remained calm.

The Palestinian (National) Authority seems to want to show that it has the situation under control, given the risk there is of an explosion," Palestinian political commentator Gbassan Khatib told AFP.

"The frustration of the population is growing day by day because of the deadlock in the peace process and there is a very real risk of a loss of control," he added.

(Continued on page 2)

PNA says progress made with Israel on Gaza airport

GAZA (R) — Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) have agreed on takeoff and landing procedures and a name for an airport in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian negotiator said Monday.

Fayez Zidan, head of the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority, said after talks Sunday with Israeli negotiator Shaul Mofaz that security and customs issues still needed to be resolved.

"The Israeli side promised to present written proposals before the end of the week," he told Reuters.

Noting that "some progress" had been made, Mr. Zidan said: "We consecrated the name 'Gaza International Airport' and also agreed on procedures for takeoffs and landings."

He said Israel for the first time presented a position paper on aviation issues, agreeing to let Palestinians import equipment for the airport from Spain and Germany, except for radar whose

purchase is still under negotiation. "We disagreed on other points, such as who is going to sign aviation agreements with other countries," Mr. Zidan said.

The meeting followed talks last week between Israeli Defence Chief Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian Cabinet Minister Nabil Shaath on opening the airport, a Gaza sea port and a corridor between the Strip and the West Bank.

Mr. Shaath said progress on the three confidence-building measures could help revive formal peace talks suspended since Israel began building a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in March.

Opening of the air and sea ports and the Gaza-West Bank "safe passage" was agreed under the Israel-PLO interim peace accords signed since 1993.

Under the deals, Israel has overall control of Gaza and West Bank border crossings.

Iraq scraps trade mission to Lebanon after ban of athletes

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday called off its first trade mission to Lebanon since 1990 in retaliation for a ban which has kept Iraqi athletes out of the Arab Games in Beirut.

The commerce ministry, quoted by the official news agency INA, said "the visit of the commercial and industrial delegation scheduled for August has been postponed without a new date fixed."

The visit starting on August 19 was expected to mark a revival of trade between the two Arab states, with plans afoot for Iraq to import food and medicine while exporting oil to Lebanon.

But the Lebanese government, under pressure from

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, banned Iraqi athletes from the Games which started in Beirut Saturday despite an Arab League invitation for Iraq to take part.

Lebanon, which cut diplomatic relations in 1994 after an Iraqi dissident was assassinated in Beirut, has been eager to reactivate commerce with Iraq. It sent two trade delegations to Baghdad in three months.

The trade with sanctions-hit Iraq would fall under the U.N. oil-for-food accord which allows Baghdad to export \$2 billion worth of crude every six months to finance imports of humanitarian supplies.

The U.N. embargo against Iraq has been in force since its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq accounted for 20 per cent of Lebanon's exports before the invasion, while Kuwait and Saudi Arabia which oppose Baghdad's return to the Arab fold are major aid donors to Beirut. Baghdad has accused Beirut of selling off its independence in decision-making to the two oil-rich Gulf monarchies by refusing to grant visas to Iraqi athletes.

On Monday, the official Baghdad press attacked Lebanon for the third straight day.

Kuwait threatened to boycott the Games if Iraq took part. The emirate contributed \$6 million and Saudi Arabia \$20 million for the reconstruction of

(Continued on page 2)

Lebanese families of detainees taken by Israel stage protests

TYRE (AFP) — The families of some 200 Lebanese detained without charge or trial by Israel staged Monday symbolic sit-ins across the country to mark the annual "day of the Lebanese prisoner."

Some 50 people, mostly women and children, carried pictures of their detained relatives and stood for an hour in front of the United Nations base in the southern port city of Tyre.

They handed over to U.N. officers a memorandum addressed to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, calling on "the U.N., the Arab League and other regional organisations to exert pressures on Israel to release the detainees."

"Their detention is a scandalous violation of all international laws and agreements," the memorandum said.

"The Lebanese detainees are suffering from miserable health conditions. They are threatened by death if they are not released," it said.

A number of other similar sit-ins were held by families of detainees in Beirut and the cities of Tripoli, Baalbek and Sidon.

About 150 Lebanese are held in a prison manned by Israel's allied South Lebanon Army militia in the village of Khiyam in the Israeli-occupied border zone in south Lebanon. Fifty-two others are detained in jails inside Israel.

On Thursday, the London-based Amnesty International rights group denounced cases of torture in the jails and said the detention of prisoners without charge or trial was like the "treatment of hostages by terrorist kidnappers."

Those captured and held in Israel and south Lebanon are being held as hostages by the state of Israel to be used as a bargaining chip with Islamist militia groups," said a spokesman for the group.

Israel's deputy minister for defence, Ori Orr, had told amnesty that the release of these prisoners was conditional on the freeing or accounting for Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon, he said.

Algerian rebels kill 44, kidnap 21 girls — papers

PARIS (R) — Suspected militants killed at least 44 villagers in attacks on isolated Algerian communities during the weekend and kidnapped 21 girls from one village, Algerian newspapers said Monday.

Al Watan daily, well-informed on security matters, said around 20 rebels attacked Fetha village, near Ksar Al Boukhari, southwest of Algiers, over Saturday-Sunday night.

They killed 33 members of five families, including 14 women and four adolescents, the paper said.

"This attack was apparently led by a terrorist group to take revenge on a dissident (rebel) faction," the paper said.

It added: "The day before the attack, the body of a peasant was found. He had been kidnapped, tortured and decapitated in Ksar Al Boukhari area."

Algeria's main Arabic language newspaper Al Khabar said the rebels used knives or axes to cut the throats or stab to death the villagers.

The rebels dragged off with them 21 young girls from the village, it said.

Scores of girls, including teenagers as young as 13, have been kidnapped by Islamist rebels to serve the men as "temporary brides" in the bush.

Few of the girls are ever reported to return safely. Last week six women, the youngest 13 and the oldest 28, were reported taken from one family south of Algiers. They are believed to be still missing.

Market bomb kills 21

ALGIERS (AP) — A bomb exploded Monday in a market just outside Algiers, killing up to 21 people and injuring 40 others, the government said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bomb attack in the market at Baraki, on the eastern outskirts of the capital. Such bloodshed is usually blamed on Muslim insurgents. Ambulances rushed to the scene of the semi-covered market, packed with people two days before celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed. The government, which only occasionally acknowledges attacks, issued a brief statement providing the toll from the blast.

Al Watan said the assailants moved into Fetha village around 7 p.m. Saturday and took a meal before suddenly moving to attack the five families.

Al Khabar said the attackers encircled the headquarters of the communal guard, clashing with them and preventing them from coming out while they carried out the attack.

Many villages have communal guards or vigilante groups, known as Patriots, set up to try to deter rebel attacks.

Al Khabar said seven more people were killed Saturday night in a nearby village, Douar Aziz, and four more in Douar Baraguc. All the communities lie in Ksar Al Boukhari area, some 100 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

It was not clear if the deaths of the seven from Douar Aziz were the same as the seven reported killed by Al Watan.

The French language newspaper said seven bodies had been found in Taza forest in the same area and that the villagers had been killed at a fake road block mounted by

"terrorists."

Al Khabar said that another seven people had been killed by "terrorists" in the same area four days ago.

There was no official confirmation of the reports but foreign diplomats and security experts say the fact the heavily controlled newspapers carry them without apparent sanction, is seen as tacit confirmation.

Violence has shaken Algeria for nearly six years, erupting after the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a huge lead.

About 60,000 people have since been killed.

Last June 5, Algeria held fresh general elections which the authorities hoped would be a major step to ending the violence. Algerian newspapers since then have reported nearly 400 people being killed, and one member of parliament told the assembly last week that 1,000 people had died in the period from the ballot.

Medpartenariat finishes; expectations not fully met

by Ghathia Ahul and Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Medpartenariat Jordan '97 ended on a subdued note Monday, with local participants speaking reservedly on the event's success.

Although it may not have yielded the immediate results participants had expected, representatives from local and foreign companies said the affair did result in several preliminary agreements for future joint venture and export projects.

"You can't sign agreements in such a limited time," said a representative of the Danish Jordanian Dairy Company. The dairy company discussed signing technical agreements with a French company to improve their line of production in Jordan, and the representative said that the company was also hoping to sign export deals with Turkey and Eastern European countries.

Medpartenariat — a two-day event hosted and organised by Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) in cooperation with the EU — sought to initiate contacts and partnership ventures

Hadidi says conference yielded positive results

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Director General Farooq Hadidi Monday said the Medpartenariat conference in Amman yielded positive results and provided all participants with export and investment opportunities. He said that most of the meetings held between Jordanian and foreign companies were successful, adding that some deals were initiated with European companies for future trading and industrial projects. Mr. Hadidi said that these future deals will place Jordan as a gate to neighbouring countries and facilitate the transfer of technology in industrial, trading and investment fields. He rejected reports that most of the European companies were looking at Jordan as a market for their products, and said that these companies were seeking partners who can produce their trademarks under licence.

between 550 Jordanian and European companies.

Local businessmen said they had hoped to see more concrete results such as the establishment of joint venture projects, but they stopped short of expressing total disappointment with the event.

"Many people were hoping to enter into export arrangements and under licence manufacturing joint ventures," said Hani Huneidi of the National Ammonia and Chemical Industries. "We came close to signing a couple of good deals. It was promising and I would say ninety per cent successful for us."

"You cannot do business" at the Medpartenariat

at," said Anwar Obeidat, secretary of the Jordan Europe Business Association (JEBBA). "But I believe that at least thirty per cent of participating companies reached some kind of agreement with foreign companies."

Mr. Obeidat, who finalised two deals to represent foreign companies in Jordan, said that most deals that were actually concluded during the Medpartenariat were similar.

Other company representatives confirmed Mr. Obeidat's belief. "We were looking for underlicensing manufacturing partners,

(Continued on page 2)

Gulf oil spill leaves Sharjah with no water for two days

SHARJAH (AFP) — Water supplies began to flow back into a United Arab Emirates (UAE) city Monday after a disruption of two days because of an oil spill near its main desalination plant, officials said.

"There is no pollution at the desalination plant and the surrounding water. The spill is breaking up and evaporating," said Ahmad Najjar, senior engineer at Sharjah's electricity and water authority.

"We stopped water supplies from the city as a protective measure. But we are now gradually resuming supplies and all the emirate will have water back by the end of the day," he told AFP.

Officials said a barge overloaded with Iranian diesel oil spilt some 2,500 tonnes Friday in rough seas near Al Liyya desalination plant, which supplies Sharjah with more than half its drinking water needs.

The barge was towed out to sea Sunday and officials said an investigation was launched.



ARAFAT IN LONDON: Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat was met Monday by an honour guard from the Royal Air Force upon his arrival at Heathrow airport outside London. President Arafat is due to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process with British Prime Minister Tony Blair (AFP photo)

Truce panel to meet over complaint after Lebanese civilian's death

BEIRUT (AFP) — The International Truce Monitoring Committee is due to meet this week to hear a Lebanese complaint over the death of a civilian in an Israeli shelling, a U.N. official said Monday.

"Israel's bombardment of Lebanese civilians is a violation of the April accord, killing innocent civilians is unacceptable," said Stanislaw Wozniak, head of the U.N. Mission Forces in Lebanon (UNMIL).

"I understand that armed forces engage in clashes, but civilians should not be targeted. Concerning this issue, Israel is violating the April accord," the

Polish general said.

Under the April 1996 ceasefire agreement, civilians are to be spared from fighting and attacks must not be launched from civilian residential areas.

The accord put an end to Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" offensive against guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in Lebanon last year that left 175 people, mostly civilians, dead.

Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel from south Lebanon.

The truce panel — made up of Lebanon, Israel, Syria, France and the United States

— is scheduled to meet Wednesday, the 13th meeting this year, at U.N. headquarters in the border town of Naqoura.

Lebanon filed a complaint Saturday with the committee over an Israeli bombardment on southern Lebanon that killed a 70-year-old Lebanese civilian. Israel expressed regret over the death.

Gen. Wozniak said he had lodged a "severe protest" with Israel for its repeated shelling of civilian areas, mainly after the injury of seven civilians, including a seven-year-old boy who lost an eye, on June 6.

Bahraini opposition says 17 Shiites arrested

LONDON (R) — An exiled Bahraini opposition group said on Monday 17 Shiite Muslims, including children, had been arrested in connection with political unrest in the Gulf Arab state.

The Bahrain Freedom Movement said in a statement that five people aged under 16 years were among the detainees who were held in two Shiite areas.

Ten people were held in the small island of Sitra, linked with the capital Manama by a three kilometres causeway, and seven were arrested in Al Qurayya village, it said. The claim could not be immediately confirmed.

Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial and banking centre, said last week it had arrested four people after a deadly arson attack on a cold store in Sitra in which two Bangladeshi workers died.

The Bahrain Freedom Movement said police had also detained, beat and later freed a 13-year-old boy, Sayyed Hassan Sayyed Alawi. It gave no further details.

Members of the island's majority Shiite community have waged sporadic protests, arson attacks and bombings since December 1994 to press for political and economic reforms by the Sunni-led government.

Iran vows to defend Lebanon and Palestinians against Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Monday that his country would defend Lebanon and the Palestinians against Israeli aggression, during a visit here by a Lebanese economic delegation.

"Iran will defend the rights of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the aggressors," Mr. Rafsanjani said on state radio.

"It is the duty of Islamic countries to help solve the problems of countries that fight against Israel... and Iran is ready to act again in this direction," he added.

Iran supports with money and weapons Hizbollah guer-

rillas fighting Israel's occupation of a self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon aimed at protecting its northern border from attack.

A Lebanese economic delegation arrived here Saturday in the first such visit since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, which Mr. Rafsanjani said had helped open a "new phase" in Iranian-Lebanese relations.

The delegation, led by Lebanese Economy Minister Yassine Jaber, participated in a joint economic meeting.

Members of the economic delegation included Lebanese senior Finance Secretary Fuad Sanjari and Central Bank Governor Ryad

Salame. During their week-long visit, the delegates held talks with housing ministry and other Iranian officials.

Several members of the Lebanese government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri have paid working visits to Iran and Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel Murr represented Lebanon here at the 1996 inauguration of the "new silk road."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the beginning of May that Mr. Hariri is expected to pay an official visit to Iran in a few months.

Officials said the visit would take place during the

swearing in of Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, scheduled for August.

There have been occasional tensions in Iranian-Lebanese relations.

In July 1996, President Elias Hrawi accused Iran of interfering in internal Lebanese affairs, and Mr. Hariri criticised Iran's financial assistance to its supporters in Lebanon without going through official Lebanese channels.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz said he hoped Mr. Khatami's election, in May, would allow "relations between Lebanon and Iran to develop."

Israelis visiting Egypt call for united peace front

CAIRO (AFP) — Members of Israeli group Peace Now, which favours the creation of a Palestinian state, called Monday for a united front to restart the peace-process, after talks here with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

"We need solidarity between the peace forces in Israel and those abroad in favour of a resumption of the negotiations and an end to the current peace-process crisis," Peace Now member and Reserve General Mordechai Bar-On told reporters.

The delegation informed Mr. Musa of the movement's role in promoting the peace process and listened to his views on the obstacles hampering it, he

added. "I think that dialogue with the Israeli Peace Now movement and all who call for a just peace, based on the principle of trading land for peace, is important and useful," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Bar-On said he was pessimistic about "the chances of a breakthrough in the peace process with the current [Israeli] government's policy."

He said his movement was seeking to "mobilise Israeli public opinion to bring about elections for a new government that would work for peace."

"We are convinced that peace must prevail between the peoples of the region in a way that isn't limited to governments," he said.

Another prominent Turkish deputy quits Ciller's party

ANKARA (AP) — Former Deputy Premier Tansu Ciller suffered another blow when a prominent member of her centre-right party Monday joined a wave of resignations to protest her policies.

The resignation of retired General Dogan Gure, a former military chief of staff, left True Path with 97 seats in the 550-member parliament.

Some 40 True Path deputies quit their party after Mrs. Ciller made an alliance with an Islamist party in a coalition government a year ago.

The Islamist-led government resigned last month

under pressure from the military because of its foreign policies in this secular country.

But the resignations speeded up when Mrs. Ciller refused to ally with pro-secular parties and kept her party in the Islamist bloc even after the government's resignation.

Several other deputies resigned recently when she allowed her aides to publicly attack the military with allegations that the generals were engaged in a plot to stage a coup.

The pro-secular military is a highly respected institution in this country.

PNA curbs clashes in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to Hebron, violence has also flared in recent days in the West Bank cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem.

The return of calm also comes on the eve of a vote in the U.N. General Assembly called under emergency legislation by the Arab bloc to demand economic sanctions against Israel because of its settlement policy.

Late Sunday members of the 400-strong militant Jewish settler community living in Hebron blocked a road in the city's buffer zone between the two zones of the city after their

houses were targeted by petrol bombs.

The settlers threw stones at Palestinian police vehicles and there were several scuffles before the settlers returned to their heavily-guarded enclave, said witnesses.

Since early June, Palestinian youths have been taking to the narrow streets of Hebron around the city's old market almost daily and hurling petrol bombs, rocks and home-made explosives at Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli army has responded with volleys of rubber and plastic-coated metal bullets, injuring eight people, including four journalists, in

the latest round of unrest Sunday.

Under a January accord, 80 per cent of Hebron is controlled by the Palestinian municipal authorities while the remaining 20 per cent, where the 400 settlers and 10,000 Arabs live, remains under Israeli military control.

The Palestinians walked out of peace talks in mid-March after Israel started construction of a controversial Jewish settlement on the edge of historically Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

Medpartenariat finishes; expectations not fully met

(Continued from page 1)

but most companies were coming here to sell."

The Medpartenariat has been criticised by several local participants who have been eager to penetrate foreign markets at a time when Jordan is doing its utmost to upgrade its industries to international standards and liberalise its investment environment. Many have contended that Jordan will not benefit substantially from the event as most foreign participants came to exploit Jordan

as an outlet to other regional markets.

In fact, it may be true, but "not necessarily a bad thing," said a representative from a packing industry.

"Personally, we can benefit from [foreign companies] marketing through Jordan," he said. "Maybe it's not all we hoped for, but we should take advantage of what [those companies] are offering."

The partenariat was intended to draw a collection of small to medium scale enterprises from Jordan. More

than 150 companies participated, including: Bani Hamida House, Dar Al Dawa Development Investment Company, Agricultural Plastic Industries Company, Dead Sea Gift Enterprises, Jordan Technology Group, Hali Telecommunications and Ayoubi Steel Furniture Factory.

Jordan Medpartenariat '97 is the fourth Medpartenariat hosted under the European programme initiated following the Euro-Mediterranean Conference hosted in Barcelona in 1995.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

16:00 French Programmes
16:30 Super Sport Fiddle
17:00 Dog House
17:15 Square One TV
17:15 Album Show
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News 1 headline
19:35 Coach
20:00 The
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Dr. Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:30 West Beach
23:15 Ding Wars

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr
05:35 Sunrise/Duha
12:41 Dhulh
16:22 Asr
19:48 Maghrib
21:20 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church

Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church

Tel. 622266

Anglican Church

Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 773334

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church

Tel. 777571

Armenian International Church

Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints

Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth

Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811245

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine summer weather conditions

will prevail with temperatures dropping further becoming 3-4 degrees centigrade below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot and occasional dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and sea calm.

Amman

19/29

Aqaba

26/39

Deserts

16/34

Jordan Valley

25/38

Yacoub pharmacy

644445

Shmeisani pharmacy

637660

Natroukh pharmacy

623672

Najib pharmacy

847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852

Al Qura's pharmacy 630341

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halseh 982799

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 190

Yacoub pharmacy

644445

Shmeisani pharmacy

637660

Natroukh pharmacy

623672

Najib pharmacy

847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852

Al Qura's pharmacy 630341

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halseh 982799

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 190

Rescue Police 192 621111

637777

Fire Brigade

617101

Blood Bank

775121

Highway Police

843402

Traffic Police

896390

Public Security Department

630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

plains

897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (direct

ory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls

010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television

773111

Radio Jordan

774111

Water Authority

680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

815615

Electric Power Company

636381

RJ Flight Information

0853200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport

08-53200

Shmeisani Hospital

669131

University Hospital

845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 801611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900660

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 Sanaa (RJ)

Queen Noor meets with UNICEF representative

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Area Representative Dorrit Alopaeus-Stahl to discuss the impact of the upcoming U.N. reforms on UNICEF, a Royal Court statement said.

According to Ms. Stahl, while UNICEF welcomes the opportunity to improve the U.N. system, the reforms must ensure that "the interests of children are fully met" and that UNICEF's ability to act and mobilise funds and resources in children's best interest is strengthened and reinforced.

Ms. Stahl stated that UNICEF has benefited greatly from Queen Noor's direct support and continued cooperation, which has resulted in major achievements for both the children of Jordan and those of the Arab World.



Mazen Darwazeh Monday states that it is incumbent on the government to support and encourage research designed to promote the pharmaceutical industry (Petra photo)

'Pharmaceutical industry regulations must be modernised, upgraded'

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of a leading Jordanian pharmaceutical firm, Al Hikma, Monday called on the government to modernise and upgrade regulations concerning the pharmaceutical industry in Jordan in such a way that the country might attract foreign investment in the field of medicament production.

Addressing a press conference, Mazen Darwazeh stated that it is incumbent on the government to support and encourage research designed to promote the pharmaceutical industry as well as offer tax exemptions and create an opportune investment climate.

Jordan's application of the partnership agreement with the European Union (EU), and the Kingdom's expected entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO), will adversely affect the national pharmaceutical industry as well as

its marketing of medicines abroad unless the government backs the pharmaceutical sector through legislation, he maintained.

This legislation must encourage research to cater to requirements as outlined in international agreements, Mr. Darwazeh asserted.

WTO entry stipulates a ban on the production of new types of medicine in Jordan after the year 2001, except under a new licensing programme, he explained.

Mr. Darwazeh described this situation as requiring further coordination between the government and private sector to initiate research in developing the pharmaceutical industry.

Regarding Al Hikma, Mr. Darwazeh said that the company is developing an individual process to cater to the requirements of the government's Companies Law.

The pharmaceutical industry is entering a new

phase in Jordan, he added.

Al Hikma has concluded a series of contracts with firms in Japan, Europe and North America for marketing equipment used in the manufacturing of medicine as well as the transfer of modern technology to Jordan, according to Mr. Darwazeh.

Al Hikma sold \$32 million worth of medicine in the first six months of 1997 as compared to \$26 million for the same period of last year, he confirmed.

The firm is involved in several projects in Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the United States, according to the director general.

Its investments in Jordan and abroad, over the past five years, total \$45 million, he added.

Al Hikma is registered as a pharmaceutical company in 32 nations and is finalising a contract for the marketing of its products in the United States, Mr. Darwazeh concluded.

Yemenis study Jordanian prison system

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of the Prisons Department in Yemen Colonel Mohammed Omar Bahshawan Monday affirmed that his current visit to Jordan will focus on an examination of Jordanian reformatory centres and prisons.

In a meeting with Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant General Nasouh Muhieddin, Mr. Bahshawan affirmed that the Yemeni government hopes to rehabilitate prison inmates to become contributing members of the community.

The Yemeni government is in the process of modernising methods regarding prison inmates and hopes to procure Jordan's assistance in this regard, he added.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Yemeni delegation visited Jweidah prison and was briefed on rehabilitation programmes therein.

The visiting officials studied the categorical system, based on both the inmates' ages and their respective crimes.

The delegation also investigated diverse services and recreational programmes as well as inmate training in trades.

Britain, Jordan sign memoranda of understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Ambassador to Jordan Christopher Battiscombe and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf yesterday signed memoranda of understanding covering British aid for two projects in Jordan, according to a British Embassy statement.

The British Department For International Development (DFID) will allot a grant totalling £2 million for the projects, the statement said.

The first project, "Capacity Building of the Ministry of Social Development" aims to develop the ministry's role as a policy maker and coordinator of social sector activities.

Training workshops will be designed to meet the needs of ministry staff at central and governorate levels, according to the statement.



British Ambassador to Jordan Christopher Battiscombe and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf sign memoranda of understanding covering British aid for two projects in Jordan (Petra photo)

The second project, "Capacity Building of the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development" aims at strengthening the development complex as a training centre of excel-

lence. Throughout the duration of the project, staff from the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Training Centre and the Princess Basma Woman's Resource Centre will participate in a major training programme, the statement maintained.

Both projects aim at "institutional building" of the Ministry of Social Development and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development as a first step towards a division of responsibilities between the government and the non-governmental sectors while promoting a culture of cooperation, it added.

The signing ceremony was attended by a visiting mission from the Western Asia Section at the Department For International Development.

Importance of agricultural sector emphasised in training workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture Monday began a training workshop at the Jordanian Banking Institute.

The workshop, organised by the Regional Union for Agricultural Credit in the Near East and North Africa, is focusing on agricultural credit and financing agricultural projects.

In an inaugural address to participants, Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Kheisha described agriculture as an essential sector of the economy.

"The Jordanian agricultural sector is one of the main sectors of our national economy and plays a pivotal role in developing the nation and improving living conditions," Mr. Kheisha asserted.

The government is taking serious steps to provide a suitable climate for attracting foreign investment therein, he added.

"We must be self-reliant through meeting our own agricultural needs and earning currency through the export of agricultural supplies in order to support the domestic economy," Mr. Kheisha declared.

Meanwhile, the minister announced that Jordan's 11 veterinary plants last year exported veterinary drugs worth JD 7.5 million and that these goods were marketed in nine nations abroad.

Two additional plants are to be opened soon, Mr. Kheisha confirmed. Jordanian veterinary products have won global fame and are competing with similar products from developed countries, he stated.

The minister was addressing a ceremony held at Naour for the inauguration of a JD 3 million plant for the manufacture of veterinary drugs.

The plant is owned and operated by the Jordanian Dar Al Dawaa Pharmaceutical Company.

The veterinary manufacturing industry is not only a material investment, but rather an investment in science as well as a service to the nation, the minister stated.

As Jordan enters into partnership with the European Union and commits itself to the global economy, raising the quality of national products and applying internationally accepted specifications has become an obligatory practise, the minister stated.

He maintained that the Jordanian veterinary industry is a source of national pride and that the government will continue to extend all possible assistance.

The Ministry of Agriculture has completed preparations for the establishment of a quality control laboratory for locally produced as well as imported veterinary drugs, Mr. Kheisha stated.

The minister also expressed concern over livestock wealth in Jordan and difficulties farmers have been facing.

Present economic difficulties, combined with water scarcity and a price hike in animal feed, have frustrated farmers, he stated.

Mr. Kheisha emphasised the importance of providing the best possible assistance to this sector which, he said, is responsible for 60 per cent of Jordanian agricultural production and which sustains 50,000 families in Jordan who raise cattle and sheep.

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently developing projects in the northern badia region to aid livestock farmers, he concluded.

150,000 families live at poverty line — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of Jordanian families living near the line of absolute poverty has been estimated at 150,000 which figure accounts for nearly 21 per cent of the total population, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mansour stated Monday.

Families living under the line of abject poverty are estimated at nine per cent of the population, he added.

At a seminar organised by the student council of the University of Jordan, Dr. Mansour maintained that the government is taking serious measures to deal with poverty and unemployment in Jordan.

In a seminar entitled "official policy regarding poverty and unemployment," the minister affirmed that the government is focusing on economic productivity, creating opportunities for comprehensive development and helping Jordanians secure steady income rather than keeping citizens dependent on financial assistance.

According to the minister, unemployment and poverty can be mitigated through programmes, development and income-generating projects however, he said, there must be a parallel change in attitudes among Jordanians as regards manual and other types of work, currently dominated by guest workers.

The government will continue to provide assistance to indigent families, estimated at 33,000, through the National Aid Fund and other institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development, he stated.

A total of JD 15 to JD 17 million in cash subsidies are allotted for this purpose each month, Dr. Mansour confirmed.

Additionally, the government will continue to prioritise employment for Jordanians by paying the wages of these workers from the state treasury for a limited period of time after which employers and workers can agree on terms for continued employment, he stated.

Jordanians can be easily trained to fill job posts which are currently taken by an estimated 350,000 non-Jordanian workers, Dr. Mansour affirmed.

The minister also pointed to measures taken by the government to help handicapped citizens. He stated that their number is estimated at 100,000 of whom 80 per cent currently benefit from government rehabilitation assistance.

Jordan reaffirms opposition to Jewish settlements

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan has reiterated its total opposition to the Israeli resumption of Jewish settlement programmes in Arab East Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

Director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Tarshihli stated that these settlements pose serious danger to the Middle East peace process as well as blatant defiance of international legislation.

Mr. Tarshihli addressed his remarks to the 58th meeting of countries hosting Palestinian refugees, opened yesterday in Cairo, with the participation of Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The peace process has encountered its most serious challenge, over the past few months, due to Israeli government policies which constitute an outrageous defiance of Arab and Muslim sentiment as well as a flagrant violation of the basic principles of the peace process, he said.

This government also contravenes accords signed with the Palestinians and thereby has achieved a deadlock in the peace negotiations, Mr. Tarshihli added.

The present crisis, following the Israeli decision to intensify settlement programmes, is not only currently disrupting negotiations, but is also affecting final status negotiations covering the future of Jerusalem and Jewish settlement programmes.

The Israelis should have embarked on the final

status negotiations with the Palestinians last March, he said, however the deadlock and Israeli actions have created despair and frustration for all parties in the peace process.

The only hope for an end to the impasse is a unified Islamic-Arab stand, supported by the international community, to force Israel to comply with peace requirements.

Those European nations which issued the Amsterdam declaration, demanding that the Israelis recognise Palestinian rights and respect the peace accords, have provided new hope for concerted international efforts directed towards the success of the peace process, according to Mr. Tarshihli.

He also lauded recent meetings in the city of Denver in the United States attended by industrialised nations.

The Cairo meeting's agenda will counter Israeli defiance of the global community, its failure to redeploy forces in the occupied territories and its continued intransigence against the Palestinians, Mr. Tarshihli stated.

In reference to Jerusalem, he remarked that the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 252 in 1968 which described Israeli measures to alter the character of the Arab city as illegal, while the same council's 1980 resolution demanded an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

U.N. Resolution 194 provides for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland or compensation for

their loss of property, he added.

Jordan has been providing assistance to refugees who now reside in 13 camps in the Kingdom and has recently allocated JD 173 million as part of a social security package programme to improve services for these camps, Mr. Tarshihli affirmed.

These services include improvements to water supply, sewage, road maintenance and electricity networks over the next five years, he stated.

Jordan is spending approximately \$300 million annually on refugees living in the Kingdom, Mr. Tarshihli affirmed.

Annual budget deficits of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have been adversely affecting social, educational and health services for the refugees, he lamented.

Difficulties and financial constraints facing UNRWA should prompt donor nations to contribute to the agency's operations in a substantial manner, Mr. Tarshihli asserted.

In a two-day meeting for donor nations, held in Amman last month, UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen stated that the agency has a deficit of \$26 million.

According to Mr. Tarshihli, the Jordanian delegation to the meeting in Cairo will submit reports regarding Israeli plans to Judaize Jerusalem, Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the UNRWA budget deficit and Israeli human rights violations.

Workshop covers traditional methods of water harvesting

AMMAN (J.T.) — A workshop on indigenous water harvesting systems in West Asia and North Africa (WANA) was concluded yesterday, subsequent to three days of deliberations, an International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) statement said.

The two-day workshop was organised by ICARDA as well as the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT). It was planned within the framework of the regional project on Water Harvesting in WANA, managed and coordinated by ICARDA.

Research papers were presented on indigenous water systems in WANA, underlining their past and potential usage, the statement said.

The workshop postulated that analytical studies on traditional water harvesting systems are needed to understand their past usages and develop new systems to ensure wide agricultural acceptability.

The benefits of water harvesting are not only economical but social and environmental as well, according to the statement.

The responsibility of making these projects feasible should not be merely

that of the farmer but rather a national responsibility, it added.

Workshop participants recommended that support for this project and research on water harvesting be enhanced so that these techniques become widely adopted in dry areas.

The steering committee of the project will convene in the Amman ICARDA office on July 15-16 to discuss achievements and future plans, the statement said.

Nine countries, including Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Pakistan participated in the project.

Experts from ICARDA, NCARTT, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST), Al al Bayt University, the Jordan Water Authority (JWA), the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), the French Embassy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Azraq Project, GCEP, the Jordan Society for Combating Desertification, the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC), the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) also attended the workshop.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

*"Yes Minister" at the British Council, Jabel Amman, at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

*"Tall Hammad Cultural History Project" by Sam Labadie at the American Centre of Oriental Research (Tel. 446-117) at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

*Display of Beni Hammad hand-made products at Beni Hammad House, Jabel Amman, until July 31 (Tel. 556-9977).

*Works by Iraqi artists Ali Al Najjar and Zia Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until July 23.

*Art works by Saham Kamal in exhibition "From Jerusalem to Nabulus" at the Jordan River Design Showroom, Jabel Amman, until July 15 (Tel. 613087).

*Photo exhibition, entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zuhairi at the Modern Educational School, Khalda, until July 31.

*Photography exhibition by Jim Kasey, at the British Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 22.

*Paintings by Ali Al Ghoni at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

*Silver jewelry exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Nour Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

*Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, featuring works of 69 Arab artists, at Dar Al Fann, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 24.



A man holds his bag of food as he tries to cross a flooded street in the centre of Wrocław. Flooding in Poland has resulted in 33 deaths and forced thousands from their homes (Reuters photo)

Poland to go into mourning over flood catastrophe

WARSAW (R) — Poland has announced a day of mourning over week-long floods that have killed at least 33 people, caused incalculable damage to the country's south and are still spreading along the swollen Odra River.

While waters slowly receded and evacuees returned to devastated homes in dozens of towns and hundreds of villages in southern Poland, surges of flood water swept north up two major rivers to bring the horror to other communities.

"The government has decided to declare next Friday a day of national mourning," Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz told reporters late Sunday after the cabinet met to decide how to coordinate rescue efforts and find funds to remedy the damage.

He said parliament would return from recess for a special sitting Wednesday to pass needed amendments to 25 laws including this year's budget — among other things to allow higher borrowing at home and abroad.

Mr. Cimoszewicz said the full costs of the disaster might never be known.

"It is impossible to rationally estimate the scale ... Losses are so vast no officials can make such estimates," he said. The prime minister said he would appoint a special official with full powers to draft and implement reconstruction efforts.

Over the weekend, the front line of Poland's battle against the deluge was Wrocław, a historic city of 650,000 people which was part of Germany and known as Breslau before 1945.

The high-point in a northward surge along the Odra hit Wrocław, swamping suburbs and most of the centre.

People stranded in high-rise buildings signalled to helicopters clattering overhead to call for food and to be rescued.

Thousands of volunteers battled for hours building sand-bag barricades to defend the historic old town square and an island with famous buildings and a university library containing priceless books. Local officials said they seemed to

have won.

But even as the flooding slowly subsided, waters continued to spread in the city, prompting a new fight to save the zoo.

The high-water level closed on towns further north towards the German border, including Glogow and Brzeg Dolny. Some 8,000 residents in the Legnica area were evacuated.

Deputy Environment Minister Krzysztof Szamalek told reporters it might still cause some floods, but added: "It won't be a cataclysm."

A less dangerous swell of high water was also advancing along the Wisla River and was due to reach Warsaw early Monday, but Mr. Szamalek said it would not flood the capital. Mr. Szamalek said 2,400 square kilometres were under water, down from 3,600 square kilometres at the peak of the floods.

The deluge, the region's worst natural disaster in centuries, also devastated swathes of the neighbouring Czech Republic during the week. It followed days of heavy rain.

Where the flooding receded, dozens of towns and hundreds of villages were left strewn with sewage, rubbish and dead cows.

Health officials broadcast warnings to hundreds of thousands of returning evacuees and survivors to clean everything, sterilise water and beware of contaminated food.

Poles elsewhere took gifts of soap, clothes, bread and blankets to collection points for transport south, but there were also reports on Polish radio of looting and profiteering.

Mr. Cimoszewicz and President Aleksander Kwasniewski were due to visit Bonn Monday for the first session of planned regular German-Polish consultations and the prime minister said Poland needed further help from abroad, notably pumps.

Germany has rallied to help, supplying money, equipment and expertise. Foreign aid has also come from other sources.

Indian monsoon rains claim 270 lives

CALICUT (AFP) — Around 70 people have died in the southern Indian state of Kerala in recent days as some of the worst monsoon rains in living memory lashed the coastal region, officials said Monday.

They said the casualties, bringing the total monsoon death toll across the country to 270, had been recorded over the past week.

Around 23,000 families were evacuated as floodwaters destroyed thousands of homes and crops in the coastal state.

Hundreds of rescue workers were using make-shift boats to ferry food to marooned villagers in the flood-stricken districts, witnesses said.

In the northern district of Kasargod, more than 26 people died — most of whom were killed when their houses collapsed. An official spokesman said 10 more people were reported "missing."

In the adjoining district of Calicut, 21 people drowned in the floods, he said.

A spokesman of the Meteorological Office said the monsoon rains which had hit Calicut was the heaviest in district for "about a century."

"A 10-year-old boy and his sister who were trying to cross a bridge were swept away by gushing waters in Calicut," the official said. "Most of the bodies recovered have not been claimed

so far."

Businesses and schools remained shut in Calicut for the sixth consecutive day but officials said the flood waters were receding.

In the capital city of Tiruvananthapuram, the government called an emergency meeting to discuss measures to step up relief measures.

Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar urged Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral to release relief funds for the state.

"The estimated loss for the state is about \$8 million," a state government spokesman said.

A report in the Hindu newspaper Monday said more than 550 homes were

reported destroyed and another 8,500 damaged in Kerala.

Another 11 people have died in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh over the past two days, newspapers reported, as several rivers, including the Ganges, rose dramatically due to heavy rains.

The monsoon hit the south of India in the first week of June and the rains have been gradually moving northwards. They reached New Delhi last week.

The first deaths were reported in Maharashtra and Gujarat, on the western coast of the country. Floods were also reported in the eastern state of Assam Monday.

Floods in eastern China kill 16; toll tops 100

BEIJING (AFP) — Floods in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangxi have left 16 dead, bringing the death toll in summer flooding across the country to 100.

"We have 16 confirmed deaths at the moment, but waters are still rising and we expect the toll to increase," a provincial government official said by telephone.

Jiangxi has witnessed almost non-stop rainfall since June 6, causing major rivers to burst their banks and inundating 340,000 hectares (8.4 million acres) of farmland.

Altogether, 5.6 million people in the province have been affected by the flood waters, which have destroyed 26,000 houses and forced more than 3,000 families to suspend operations, the official said.

The annual flooding has already claimed 70 lives in the southern provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi, as well as 14 in Fujian and Zhejiang provinces.

Local officials in Zhejiang said Monday that the flood situation there had been brought under control, with the heavy rainstorms of the

past week finally easing up.

Around a dozen people died in the Zhejiang flooding, which affected 5.14 million people, damaged 80,000 homes and flooded 226,780 hectares (560,146 acres) of land. Economic losses for the whole province were estimated at three billion yuan (\$361 billion).

They earlier said standing crops on at least 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares) were damaged.

Besides crops, thousands of hectares of shrimp farms and other fish projects have been washed away, causing substantial damage, officials said.

Civil administration and security forces were conducting relief and rescue operations, officials said.

Bangladesh flood toll reaches 80, many missing

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods sweeping Bangladesh killed 16 more people Sunday, raising the confirmed death toll to 80, officials said Monday.

They said 19 people missing since a boat capsized in the flooded Sangu River three days ago still remained unaccounted for and are also presumed dead.

"There is no reason to hope that the missing boat passengers are alive. If we accept that, the death toll in the week-long flooding is already 99," one official in

Chittagong said. Officials said most of the victims had died in landslides, house cave-ins or drowned.

They said at least 100 other people were missing in various flood affected districts and nearly 50 were injured.

The death toll could rise further when areas still cut off by floodwaters became accessible, they added.

Water started receding slowly after rains that caused the deluge in 19 out of the country's 64 administrative districts had stopped Sunday.

"But the monsoon remains quite active and may cause more rainfall soon," one weather official in Chittagong said.

Roads between Chittagong port city and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong hill tracts, remained impassable, transport operators said.

Railway links in some of the affected areas in the country's southeast were also disrupted.

Agriculture officials Monday said they were assessing losses, but that full estimates would not be available until the floodwaters had fully receded.

Cambodia's Hun Sen demands rival's arrest, accuses ASEAN

KAMPONG THOM (AFP) — Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen demanded the arrest and extradition of his rival co-premier Monday as he accused his South East Asian neighbours of interfering in his country's internal affairs.

Mr. Hun Sen, whose forces took Phnom Penh last week in fierce fighting, said he was now considering withdrawing his country's application to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

His warning came as Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, who is in Beijing recovering from medical treatment, said he was powerless to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Hun Sen also warned the international community against harbouring his rival First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was effectively ousted in the fighting. Mr. Hun Sen accuses the prince of bringing Khmer Rouge guerrillas to Phnom Penh to cause unrest, a charge the prince denies.

"If anybody dares to protect (him), I can say that that foreign country is the defender of a traitor," he told reporters after addressing villagers in this central province.

"I wish the international community and international community to arrest Prince Ranariddh and send him back to Cambodia," he said.

"I appeal to the Cambodian court to prepare documents in order to (indict) Norodom Ranariddh and then release a warrant to arrest him (in) a foreign country."

The prince fled Cambodia on July 4, the day before the fighting began, and has been campaigning for international sanctions against Mr. Hun Sen's "new government," which he says was installed by a coup.

Mr. Hun Sen also claimed a corrupt Taiwanese major-general, now in hiding in Phnom Penh, had been a vital arms and money supplier to the prince.

"I accuse Taiwan completely, but not the good people in Taiwan only the bad Taiwanese mafia groups."

But he offered no proof of his claim and Taiwanese military officials Monday were quick to deny the allegation.

Mr. Hun Sen also claimed in a Taipei newspaper that a Taiwanese company had supplied 30,000 tonnes of weapons to Prince Ranariddh.

Mr. Hun Sen's warning to ASEAN comes a week after the group decided to indefinitely postpone Cambodia's expected entry later this month, a move which analysts said enraged the second prime minister.

"I am afraid I will withdraw from ASEAN membership because (apparently) ASEAN can interfere in internal affairs," Mr. Hun Sen said.

"I have called my senior ministers (and asked) 'should we go into ASEAN or should we stop?' I want to stop if ASEAN continues to interfere in the internal affairs of the nation."

Cambodia was to enter the group at the end of the month, together with Burma and Laos, who are still expected to be admitted, joining current members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Later Monday ASEAN said it would send foreign ministers from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, to meet with Cambodia's leaders.

ASEAN has no plans "to interfere or judge" the situation

in Cambodia or either of the warring factions, Jakarta's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said.

In China, King Sihanouk, father of the ousted Prince Ranariddh, called on the international community to withhold aid to the rival factions and condemned as immoral all contact with Khmer Rouge guerrillas by the two warring premiers.

"The Khmer Rouge have committed unpardonable crimes against humanity," wrote the king.

"I must ask all foreign countries without exception not to give any aid to the Cambodian belligerents ediously engaged in this abominable and unjustifiable enterprise of inter-Khmer destruction."

King Sihanouk also said from Tuesday he will receive special envoys from France, Japan, ASEAN and the United States.

In northern Cambodia Monday, fighting raged after Mr. Hun Sen's troops pushed royalist forces out of their former stronghold in Siem Reap province, military sources said.

Prince Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC troops retreated to Samrong, in northern Oddar Meanchey province, after losing more than 40 kilometres of ground to forces of Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in Siem Reap Sunday.

The well-fortified Samrong, just 80 kilometres from the Thai border, has become a key bastion for the beleaguered royalists.

"The CPP chased the Khmer Rouge and FUNCINPEC all the way up to Samrong yesterday (Sunday) and we will push them out into Thailand if they don't surrender," a CPP commander at a post on the road to the front told AFP.

Vietnam indicated quiet support Monday for the Hun Sen-led government in Cambodia, saying stability was better than turmoil and backed Phnom Penh's early membership of the ASEAN regional grouping.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan was quoted by the Saigon Times daily as saying Hanoi wanted to see stability in Cambodia "so that bilateral ties between the two countries, especially those concerning trade and economic issues, can be maintained."

But a separate and carefully worded Foreign Ministry statement issued at the weekend went further.

It said that while Vietnam supported a consensus decision by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to delay Cambodia's accession, it believed Phnom Penh should have been allowed to join this month alongside Burma and Laos.

"From the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, we think it would be best if all three countries are admitted," the statement said. "However ... Vietnam follows the ASEAN principle of consensus."

Vietnam's relations with Cambodia and Mr. Hun Sen are sensitive. Mr. Hun Sen was in Vietnam earlier this month just days before the overthrow of First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

But officials here said he was merely on vacation, and reacted with fury to a Khmer Rouge radio broadcast which accused Hanoi of colluding with Mr. Hun Sen to oust his rival. A Foreign Ministry statement described the claim as "blatant slander."

New Seoul law to help Northern defectors cope

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, faced with a growing number of defections from the Communist North, adopted new legislation Monday to help asylum seekers cope with their new capitalist home.

The centrepiece of the new law is a half-way house where defectors will spend their first year studying politics, the economy, culture and social studies.

Another two years will be spent easing the new arrivals into society, with the government offering subsidised education and housing, as well as job training.

During this time, they will be under police supervision.

The entire programme will be administered by the Ministry of National Unification instead of a previous cluster of government agencies.

"We needed a systematic way to reeducate defectors as about half of them seemed to be having trouble adapting to their new environment," said the official, who declined to be identified.

The government will fund the initial year of re-education.

The South is hoping to open a reeducation centre by November next year with places for 100 people. Eventually, the facility will expand to house 500 defectors.

Each defector will be eligible for up to 31.6 million won (\$35,000) in assistance.

Cash payments will be made to the small number of military personnel who arrive with military hardware and government officials who flee their Stalinist homeland with secrets.

Previously awards were also offered in gold.

A fighter jet or naval vessel is worth up to 150 million won, any other kind of aircraft 50 million won, a tank 50 million won, side arms and rifles 10 million won. Secrets are valued at up to 250 million won.

Pakistan and India to release around 400 fishermen Tuesday

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan and India will swap Tuesday nearly 400 fishermen detained from either country for illegal fishing in disputed waters of the Arabian Sea, officials said Monday.

The exchange is seen as a major confidence building measure since the bitter rivals initiated negotiations in March on improving bilateral ties.

A three-member delegation of the Pakistani Fishermen's Cooperative Society left Monday for Bombay to bring back 194 fishermen jailed in India since 1993, they said, adding that one Pakistani fisherman had already died in detention.

Pakistan authorities are also expected to hand over an equal number of Indian

fishermen detained in Karachi.

The boats confiscated by the two countries will be released later this month, officials said.

Pakistan seized 35 Indian boats while 26 Pakistani vessels are being held by Indians, sources said.

Hajaj Ghazunfar Ali Boota, manager of the fishermen society, welcomed the move, saying the swap was needed desperately.

"It was a humanitarian issue. Some 400 families had been waiting for this reunion," Mr. Boota told AFP before leaving for India.

The fishermen will arrive here on a Pakistan International Airline's flight Wednesday, Mr. Boota said, adding his organisation had made arrangements to meet

the repatriation cost of around \$250,000.

The fishermen's release was agreed in late June when the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad for their second round of peace dialogue.

The next meeting is scheduled in New Delhi in September.

The rival neighbours opened the process of negotiations in March after a diplomatic freeze of more than three years.

The two sides have agreed on an eight point agenda for talks which includes the thorny issue of Kashmir which caused two wars between the subcontinent neighbours since their independence from the British colonial rule in 1947.

Armenia and Azerbaijan reach secret deal on disputed enclave

YEREVAN (AFP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan have reached a secret deal on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian said Sunday.

"The question of Nagorno-Karabakh has taken a decisive step forward with a new compromise," Mr. Ter-Petrosian said. Details of the deal are being kept under wraps until an accord is signed, he said.

But he reiterated Armenia would never sign an accord without the full backing and signatures of representatives of the territory itself.

Peace talks on the break-away territory in Azerbaijan have stalled since a ceasefire was declared in May 1994.

Azeri forces unsuccessfully tried to retain control of the ethnic-Armenian enclave in fighting from 1988 to 1994, which left an estimated 20,000 dead.

Azerbaijan claims the enclave under the constitution of the former Soviet Union and has called on the international community to help preserve its territorial integrity.

Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenians want independence, a claim backed by Yerevan.

Armenia last month said it supported a proposal put forward by France, Russia and the United States.

According to the Russian Interfax News Agency, it includes plans for a withdrawal of Armenian troops from around Nagorno-Karabakh and the deployment of a buffer force of Russian, U.S. and European troops.

Nagorno-Karabakh, for its part, would retain its armed forces and weapons, which would be monitored by the multinational force.

Reformist wins in Russian regional poll

NIZHNY NOVGOROD (R) — Reformist Ivan Sklyarov has beaten a Communist rival to be elected governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, according to unofficial final results Monday from an election seen as a test of Russia's reforms.

"Fifty-two per cent voted for Sklyarov and 42 per cent voted for Gennady Khodoyev," an Election Commission spokesman said following Sunday's poll.

Local television Seti NN said: "This result clearly shows that the population backs government reforms."

The turnout was 49 per cent in the run-off vote. The two rivals finished ahead of the field in the first round of voting in the region east of Moscow two weeks ago, but neither won enough votes then for outright victory.

Mr. Sklyarov, 49, has until now been city mayor in Nizhny Novgorod. He was backed by Reformists in the Kremlin including Boris Nemtsov, Nizhny Novgorod's governor until he was summoned to join the Russian government in March to boost reforms.

1997 deficit in Saudi Arabia seen low despite high spending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is expected to keep its budget deficit low in 1997 although a surge in oil prices has encouraged it to boost spending by nearly 20 per cent, bankers said Monday.

The world's main oil reservoir has projected a shortfall of 17 billion barrels (\$4.6 billion), one of its lowest budget deficits since crude prices started to fall in the mid-1980s.

"The level of oil prices so far this year is very good for the Saudi economy and budget," a Riyadh-based Saudi banker told AFP.

"You do not know the trend of prices in the third quarter but the average will not be much lower than last year. This will help the kingdom control the budget deficit, or even depress it," he said.

The price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) basket of seven crudes has so far this year averaged \$19.13, far higher than the \$16-\$16.5 forecast by Saudi Arabia when it

released its budget for calendar 1997.

With its oil exports ranging between 6.2 million and 6.5 million barrels per day (bpd), the Gulf kingdom earned more than \$3 billion in extra income in the first seven months of 1997.

Part of the surplus funds has been earmarked for the international financial reserves as Saudi Arabia is seeking to replenish those resources following a steep decline caused by heavy payments for the 1991 Gulf War.

Citing International Monetary Fund figures, bankers said Riyadh's cash reserves increased to around \$9 billion at the end of April from \$6.79 billion at the end of 1996.

They had dived to their lowest level of around \$5 billion just after the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

"Saudi Arabia's financial situation has remained healthy this year. There is an increase in liquidity and almost all the outstanding debts for local contractors and farmers have been set-

tle," a Saudi banker said.

"We do not know how much they are actually spending, but it seems the situation is as good as last year in terms of revenue," he added.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the global recoverable crude reserves, earned nearly \$8 billion in additional income in 1996 because of a surge of more than \$3 a barrel in oil prices.

But the surplus was used in supporting the international reserves and paying domestic debt. Such payments exceeded \$5.8 billion.

Buoyed by the strong oil prices, Riyadh raised spending to 181 billion riyals (\$48.2 billion) in 1997 from 164 billion riyals (\$43.7 billion) in 1996.

But the deficit was cut to 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) from around 4.1 per cent because of forecast higher revenues.

A large part of the spending increase was allocated to education, which received 41.7 billion riyals (\$11.1 billion), nearly 50 per cent above the allocations in the previous year.

Allocations for health and social services were also raised by 35 per cent while government subsidies remained almost unchanged at seven billion riyals (\$1.86 billion).

Saudi Arabia has vowed to gradually reduce its budget deficit until it disappears in 2000.

The measures, which include controlled spending and development of non-oil income sources, came after the shortfall reached worrying levels due to Saudi contributions to the Gulf War.

The deficit hit an all-time high of around \$31.6 billion in 1991, accounting for as much as 26.8 per cent of the GDP.

"Even if oil prices were lower this year, the expansion in the budget will maintain growth. The economy has already performed well, mainly in the government sector," a banker said.

NAFTA led to modest economic gains — White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The controversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had a "modest positive effect" on the U.S. economy, the White House has said in a report to Congress.

The report's restrained language contrasts with White House claims four years ago that NAFTA — encompassing the United

States, Canada and Mexico — would energise the economy and create a rush of new jobs that pay high wages.

Opponents have maintained that NAFTA, which went into force Jan. 1, 1994, has cost the United States tens of thousands of jobs because it encourages U.S. businesses to hire cheaper labour in Mexico.

Citing several studies, the Clinton administration said that NAFTA "had a modest positive effect on U.S. net exports, income, investment and jobs supported by exports."

"The hard facts support that this (NAFTA) has been part of a sound economic strategy... Its potential suggests that benefits will be more substantial as time goes on," said White House Economic Advisor Gene Sperling.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said Mexico and Canada now account for one-third of total U.S. global trade. She added that if current trends continue, Mexico will surpass Japan this year as the number two U.S. trading partner. Between 1993 and 1996, U.S. exports to Canada were up 33.6 per cent, while exports to Mexico rose 36.5 per cent, according to the White House report.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the adoption of NAFTA has "contributed enormously to the speed of recovery in Mexico."

"NAFTA, by cementing a commitment to lower tariffs, played a substantial role in

Mexico choosing the difficult reform path," said Mr. Rubin.

He noted that unemployment and inflation levels in Mexico are down, financial stability and foreign capital have returned, while monetary and fiscal policy remain on track.

"The foundation of our economic relationship with Mexico is NAFTA," Mr. Rubin said.

Ron Carey, president of the Teamsters Union, scoffed at the administration's conclusions.

"The test of any trade agreement is whether it's good for working families," Mr. Carey said in a statement. "You have to close one eye and put your hands over your ears to say that NAFTA has measured up."

Mr. Carey said more than 400,000 U.S. jobs have been lost to NAFTA. He urged Congress to reject the Clinton administration's request for "fast track" authority leading to an expanded NAFTA.

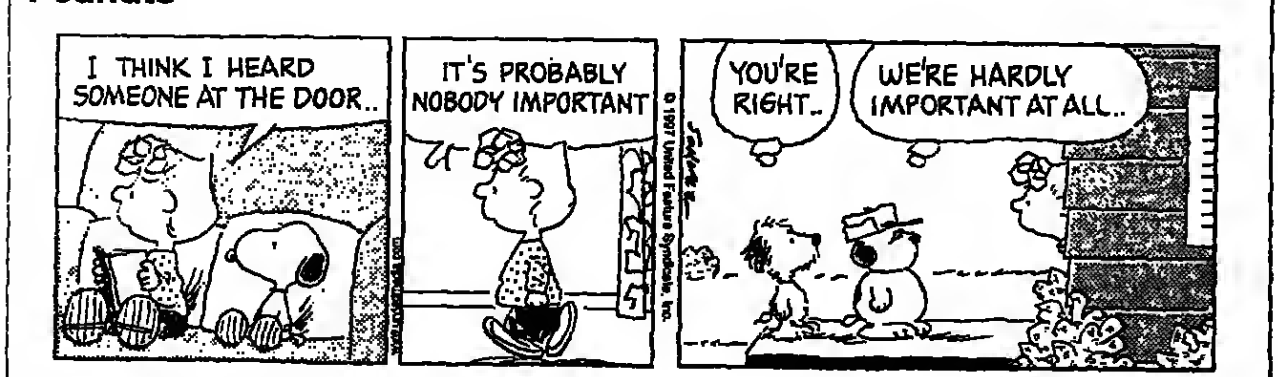
Late last month a powerful coalition of labour, environmental and policy groups called NAFTA a "failed experiment."

AIR FRANCE HONOURS ITS TOP TRAVEL AGENTS AT THE BISHARAT GOLF CLUB AMMAN



AIR FRANCE held its annual dinner for the top travel agents at the Bisharat Golf Club on Sunday 29th June 1997 during which certificates were given by the Regional Manager Jordan/ Iraq Mr. Jean-Jacques Ledauphin to the top travel agents. The Oriental For Travel & Tours, Al Tawliq Travel, Al Badiyah Travel & Tourism received golden certificates. The silver ones were given to Falcons Travel & Tourism, Al Waha Tourism, Eastern Services and Pan Pacific Travel & Tourism. International Traders, Bestours, Bisharat Tours Corporation and Near East Tourist Centre received bronze certificates.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	YEN	DM
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7900	0.5922	1.4735	113.72	1.3672	173.70	2.0156	8.0455
DE Mark	0.5587	1.0000	0.3304	0.8231	63.47	0.7632	98.48	1.1258	3.3783
GB Sterling	1.6886	3.0240	1.0000	2.4876	192.17	2.3087	293.79	3.4033	10.2078
CH Franc	0.6787	1.2142	0.4015	1.0000	77.13	0.8262	117.57	136.77	4.1000
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5732	0.5291	1.2962	1.0000	1.2013	16.30	177.16	5.3164
CA Dollar	0.7314	1.2766	0.4318	1.0682	1.20	1.0000	124.27	1.4373	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0008	1.8293	0.3403	0.8847	1533.27	0.7859	1.00	11.58	3.4758
NL Guilder	0.4961	0.8878	0.2835	0.7210	58.38	0.6779	961.02	1.00	2.9979
FR Franc	0.1654	0.2957	0.0876	0.24343	16.78	0.2258	33.30	33.3000	1.00

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	IRR	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6400	0.3028	3.6717	1534.60	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2873	0.5328	5.1412	0.4277	5.1800	2167.37	4.7811
GB Sterling	0.2866	0.1885	0.1005	0.97	0.9807	0.88	0.88	408.15	0.9025
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.8488	1.00	9.88	8.032	9.74	4070.51	8.9793
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.00	0.8832	1.01	421.57	0.9289
Kuwait Dinar	3.3025	2.3382	12.3861	1.2450	12.02	1.00	12.13	5067.70	0.9299
Emirates Dinar	0.2724	0.1928	1.0215	1.0277	0.9914	0.8825	1.01	417.33	0.9219
Lebanese 1000	0.85	0.4814	2.4441	0.3457	2.3721	0.1973	2.3928	1.00	2.2059
Egyptian	0.2854	0.2092	1.1080	0.1114	1.0763	0.0895	1.0847	453.32	1.00

Energy									
Oil	Crude	Heating	Gas	Coal	Oil	Crude	Heating	Gas	Coal
Brent	18.63	18.40	18.45	18.45	18.63	18.40	18.45	18.45	18.63
WTI	18.43	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.43	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.43
Bonny	18.63	18.40	18.45	18.45	18.63	18.40	18.45	18.45	18.63
Dubai	17.10	16.85	16.85	16.85	17.10	16.85	16.85	16.85	17.10
UL Gas	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00	178.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	YEN	DM
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4776	0.1678	0.3835	30.3388	0.2666	0.4776	0.1678	0.3835
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.4776	0.1678	0.3835	30.3388	0.2724	0.4776	0.1678	0.3835
KW Dinar	3.3025	5.9175	1.9558	4.87567	375.799	3.3025	5.9175	1.9558	4.87567
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.7599	1.5708	3.91643	301.841	0.3770	4.7599	1.5708	3.91643
CY Pound	1.5862	3.3976	1.1233	2.7966	215.879	1.5862	3.3976	1.1233	2.7966

Metal Prices									
Metal	Spot	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	Spot	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
Gold (oz's)	321.4	321.9	321.9	321.9	321.9	321.4	321.9	321.9	321.9
Silver (oz's)	4.29	4.31	4.31	4.31	4.31	4.29	4.31	4.31	4.31
Platinum (oz's)	403	407	407	407	407	403	407	407	407
AL (3 Months)	1588	1589	1589	1589	1589	1588	1589	1589	1589
CU (3 Months)	2314	2315	2315	2315	2315	2314	2315	2315	2315
Zinc (3 Months)	1504	1506	1506	1506	1506	1504	1506	1506	1506
Lead (3 Months)	870	871	871	871	871	870	871	871	871
Ni (3 Months)	8830	8850	8850	8850	8850	8830	8850	8850	8850

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
USD	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	GBP	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
GBP	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	JPY	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
JPY	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	DEM	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
DEM	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	FRF	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
FRF	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	CHF	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
CHF	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75	ITL	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75
ITL	5.49	5.57	5.69	5.75					

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 It's sometimes furrowed
- 5 Go a round with
- 9 Thespian
- 14 Assistant
- 15 Negri, of old films
- 16 — Doone
- 17 Stone end from
- 18 Regrets
- 19 Pungent bulb
- 20 Final by
- 23 TLC persons
- 24 French holy woman: abbr.
- 25 Mimic
- 29 Baseball great
- 31 Oboe, e.g.
- 35 Decorate
- 36 Lunch bag treat
- 37 Lexington school letters
- 38 Extinct bird
- 42 Vane dir.
- 43 — Bator
- 44 — blanché
- 45 Perot
- 47 Blushing
- 48 Clay worker
- 49 Dawn goddess
- 51 Vase
- 52 Reconsiders
- 61 Sharpened
- 62 Teases
- 63 Opera highlight
- 64 Swiftly
- 65 — a song...
- 66 Salon job
- 67 Giant
- 68 Novice
- 69 Lost, in a way

by Philip J. Anderson

Puzzle solved:

ARE	CHIT	PARER
GARB	RARA	AMANS
ECRU	AMEN	SADAT
SYSTEM	DUO	ICE
SCREEN	NUMBER	
ILE	BRIG	ORATED
GENERAL	ASSEMBLY	
HOTROD	ROTC	ALE
SWIVEL	TIED	
FLUE	SIDEMEN	
CON	SHE	ODESSA
ANILE	NEST	PATH
SEITON	NAPE	TILE
TREAT	ARAL	DOM

DOWN

- 1 False god
- 2 Latvian capital
- 3 Poems
- 4 Jessamy or Nathanael
- 5 Short race
- 6 Baldwin or Waugh
- 8 Unthinking
- 9 Soaring
- 10 Bestow
- 11 Small group
- 12 — about (approximately)
- 13 Fume
- 21 Local
- 22 Bar legally
- 25 It's measured in reams
- 26 Famous bull town
- 27 Pete and Charlie
- 28 Train systems: abbr.
- 29 Mountain nymph
- 30 Sea bird
- 32 Turn inside out
- 33 Ovaract
- 34 Eatery
- 36 Be flirtatious
- 39 Drink slowly
- 40 Objects of worship
- 41 Gangster's gun
- 46 Indian tribe
- 48 Magician's word
- 50 Nash
- 51 Beneath
- 52 Palaver
- 53 Indian tribe
- 54 Med. sch. course
- 55 Revue bit
- 56 Unctuous
- 57 — Hari
- 58 Spring bloomer
- 59 Baseball team
- 60 "Star Trek" android

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson
Astrologer, Carroll
Richter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Since you have feeling a bit bored with your current situation today, it may be a good idea to join some sort of public action group where your actions will be appreciated. Later this evening you can meet with knowledgeable people.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Pay special attention today to improve your credit situation. You should not allow the wool to be pulled over your eyes, or you could lose a lot of money and you could be short of funds when the necessity arises. **GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can follow your hunches with considerable success today, however, don't rule out advice from close friends. Be very careful while driving on the highway, thereby you will avoid any adverse circumstances.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do something early today which will make your mate sit up and take notice. Be sure to get plenty of sleep later this evening, since you will have a hectic few days ahead which will need your full attention. **LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be more cooperative at career activities today, and you can make a favourable impression on superiors and fellow associates. Avoid disagreements later this evening and thereby you can maintain harmony with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you find a way to use your time more efficiently today, you can increase your income commensurately. Pay more attention to your health, thereby you can maintain the high efficiency with career activities you desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Find some new entertainment today which will not only make you feel happier, however will also provide the exercise you really need. Later this evening will be a good time to meet with fellow associates and discuss business ideas.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to get your home in better order today so that later this evening you can have some important people over and make them feel welcome. Make inspiring ideas for the days ahead and thereby you can be successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Originality and wit can be your most valuable weapons when communicating with others, so make sure that your ideas are understood. Set aside some time later this evening for a hobby which will provide you relaxation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Revise your budget today so it will be easier to follow in the days ahead, while still allowing you to save money. You should not take any risks while driving on the highway, thereby you can avoid any difficulties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't be disheartened at a person who has given you bad advice today, since it was intended to be helpful. Stay around your close friends later this evening and enjoy recreational activities which can be beneficial.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can gain your personal wishes easily today by maintaining a positive attitude with fellow associates and big-wigs. Your mate is expecting a special favour from you later this evening, so you should not disappoint him or her.

Birthstone of July: Pearl — Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Business

National Cable

Manufacturing

Imports lower sales

THE BETTER HALF

WHAT CULT

Now arrange

MAIZE BIPED WINT

Answer: Sure to create a sticky is

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

National Cable and Wire Manufacturing Company reports lower sales and net profit

**** IN LIGHT** of the large investments and expansion at the National Cable and Wire Manufacturing Company, the general assembly of the board of directors to increase the company's capital by JD2.5 million to JD7.5 million. Such an increase is to be achieved through capitalising voluntary reserves and retained earnings by giving the shareholders a free half a share bonus.

Board chairman Mohammad Aref Zurqiyeh told the general assembly that the bad economic situation in Jordan and the neighbouring countries has negatively affected the company's performance. He cited lower sales despite the expansion in production capacity and stiff local and outside competition.

Mr. Zurqiyeh said that due to the closure of the traditional markets, the total output of the company dropped. He explained that as the production lines operated for less hours, the real cost of the product increased and, consequently, the profitability was negatively affected.

He indicated that the Iraqi market was totally closed to the company's products of electric wires and cables and exports were not allowed at all. As such, "there were no sales to Iraq last year compared to exports worth JD2 million in 1995." This situation resulted in lower operational efficiency, profitability and difficulty in price competition.

Local sales were also lower by JD3.2 million due to the decline in investments in projects that use cable and electric wire and the drop in construction work in addition to local and foreign competition, Mr. Zurqiyeh said.

The chairman compared the Jordan market to other neighbouring markets pointing out that Syria and Egypt ban the imports of cables and electric wires in order to protect their local industries. In Saudi Arabia, he indicated, high customs are imposed on imports and non-Saudi products are banned from being used in government projects.

"In Jordan, the market is open to anyone wanting to import and despite a 30 per cent customs duties on imports, large companies with concessions and major projects get foreign wires and cables exempted from customs," Mr. Zurqiyeh complained.

According to the annual report, sales in 1996 amounted to JD12.2 million, 21 per cent less than the 1995 figure. Of the total, JD9.4 million were sales in the local market and JD2.8 million were exports which accounted for 23 per cent of the JD12.2 million. Local sales were 25.6 per cent lower than the amount posted in 1995.

The net profit posted at the end of 1996 was JD318,700, a 62 per cent drop from the JD843,700 recorded in the preceding year. Fixed assets totalled JD8.2 million out of JD22.4 million in total assets. Shareholders' equity rose by 2.1 per cent to about JD14.2 million. Working capital was nearly JD3.34 million.

Mr. Zurqiyeh criticised the high interest rates in the Kingdom noting that it has raised the real cost of the products and lessened the company's capabilities to compete with other foreign companies which can secure financing at half the charges and, therefore, can be in a better competitive situation (Al Aswaq + Al Arab Al Yawm).

Middle East tension hurts Arab-Israeli business

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Arab and Israeli businessmen Monday said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tough policies had swept away hopes of growing Arab-Israeli business ties after landmark peace accords.

Since Mr. Netanyahu won elections last year on a pledge of a tougher policy towards Arabs, many businessmen see a hostile business climate undermining opportunities which arose after the 1993 Middle East peace accords.

"The environment which is prevalent right now is not one which is conducive to making business with Israel... and a lot of people are reluctant to do business with Israel these days," said Omar Salah, a leading Jordanian entrepreneur.

Israeli businessman Aric Brochstein, of Carmel Chemicals Ltd, said his firm had exported products to the Arab World but added: "Some people will tell you right in the first few sentences that they do not want to deal with you... They are ready to listen but do not want to deal."

Jordanian entrepreneur Salah runs Century Investment Group, a diversified industrial group.

Speaking on the sidelines of a European Union-sponsored fair at which 50 Israeli firms rubbed shoulders with Arab businessmen, he said business with Israeli firms was conducted in a less friendly environment and few new ventures were being struck.

"Since the Netanyahu era, the momentum has been lost. The business that was concluded at the time of the peace process probably still exists but goes on under a completely different environment," Mr. Salah said.

Zaki Ayoubi, an industrialist and board member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, believes there are few prospects of growing business links as

long as tension remains high among Arabs and Jews in Palestinian areas.

"Trade prospers in the presence of peaceful conditions and as long as there is tension in the Palestinian street, it will not be possible for trade exchanges to reach their desired dimension," Mr. Ayoubi said.

Salem Masbour, chairman of Cairo-based ECTRA, an agent for international machinery firms, said Israeli firms had approached him to do business but refused to do any deals "until the political climate improved."

But not everyone has slammed the door completely on dealings with Israel.

Businessmen say some

Jordanian firms which lost traditional Arab Gulf markets after the Gulf crisis in 1990 were trying to offset losses by dealing with Israeli firms, especially in textiles.

Moroccan businessman Said Al Arabaoui, who runs Casablanca-based textile firm Setafil, said he believed there was no difference between Israeli firms and others.

But Israeli businessmen, who put a brave face on a lack of widespread acceptance, also say the faltering fortunes of the peace process have taken their toll on the modest volume of trade so far.

Total trade with Jordan in the whole of 1996 did not exceed \$14 million, while Israel's trade with Egypt, the first Arab state to make peace with 1979, was just \$60 million.

"Those are the realities and it's very natural that there are suspicions, especially when the peace process is going down. At the same time they want to see what is going to happen in the near future," Mandy Barak, director of the Federation of Israeli Chamber of Commerce, told Reuters.

"I am a realist and I am sure it will take more than 25 years to have open trade between Israel and the region. Some countries will dismantle the barriers faster and some will do it much slower," Mr. Barak said.

Number of billionaires around the world could be close to 500

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Microsoft founder Bill Gates remains the world's richest businessman with a net worth of \$36.4 billion, according to Forbes magazine's 11th annual listing of the globe's richest billionaires.

Forbes said that in the last year, the computer tycoon's net worth soared by \$18 billion and is the highest ever recorded in the magazine's ranking.

Mr. Gates, 41, tops the billionaire's list for the third year in a row.

Microsoft, the Seattle, Washington-based company he founded with Paul Allen, dominates the world software market. Microsoft technology is at the heart of more than 85 per cent of personal computers.

Mr. Allen, who no longer works at Microsoft but retains an interest in the company, ranks sixth on the list with a net worth of \$14.1 billion.

Only the Sultan of Brunei is richer than Mr. Gates, Forbes said. In its July 28 issue, the magazine placed him at the head of a separate category from business leaders dubbed "kings, queens and dictators."

While the magazine limited its list to 200, it acknowledged that there now could be close to 500 billionaires around the world. Ten years ago, when Forbes first started counting billionaires worldwide, there were just 96.

Of the 200, some 30 per cent are Americans, roughly equivalent to the United States' 26 per cent share of the world's gross economic product. Asia has 56 names on the list and Europe 44.

Second to Mr. Gates is the Walton Family, owners of the U.S. Wal-Mart discount store chain, with a net worth of \$27.6 billion. Wall Street investor Warren Buffett is third with a net worth of \$23.2 billion.

At number four, Hong Kong real estate investor Lee Shau Kee is the top non-American with a net worth of \$14.7 billion.

The Oeri, Hoffman and Sacher families of Switzerland rank fifth (pharmaceuticals, \$14.3 billion), followed by Microsoft's Gardner, the Haas family of the United States (inheritance, Levi Strauss, \$12.3 billion), Walter, Thomas and Raymond Kwok of Hong Kong (real estate, \$12.3 billion), Forrest OEdward Mars and family of the United States (inheritance, Candy, \$12 billion), and Johanna Susanne and Stefan Quandt of Germany (BMW, \$11.7 billion).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOLDING BANK COVERED AMOUNT: 280,000,000									
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 14/07/1997									
LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	CONSTANT 100	COMPANY'S NAME	P / %	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
280,000,000	214,500	ARAB BANK	12.8	1.44	73	2230	625010	380.00	278.00
2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	39	20540	42366	3.04	3.06
2,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.5	0.00	1	507	1576	1.20	1.11
1,210	1,680	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	60.4	0.00	7	1980	3834	9.92	9.92
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.1	7.99	5	3123	4675	2.80	2.20
5,200	4,260	THE ARABIAN BK.	16.6	3.66	19	11231	56499	4.90	4.90
4,180	2,460	JOR. NAT. BANK	10.0	0.00	5	650	1833	3.86	1.83
1,050	780	JOR. NAT. BANK	6.6	8.97	3	560	414	8.00	7.75
3,870	1,480	ARAB JOR. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
4,050	1,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.4	3.17	18	3057	11578	3.80	2.79
1,800	1,110	UNION BK. SERV. INV.	9	0.00	3	3000	3330	1.15	1.16
MARK SECTION TOTALS INDEX: 207.57 CHNG: -0.40 155 47628 751455									
3,000	2,700	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.8	5.45	2	700	1545	3.84	2.75
4,550	2,800	JORDANIAN INSUR.	10.9	5.00	5	2750	11000	3.90	4.00
2,350	1,600	JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	4.5	12.27	33	18300	29237	1.62	1.53
INSURANCE SECTION TOTALS INDEX: 113.77 CHNG: -0.79 30 21750 42183									
1,830	1,490	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	7.9	6.12	21	15708	27331	1.53	1.53
1,540	1,320	TRANS. ELECTRICITY	8.2	6.12	2	900	1262	1.38	1.38
2,780	2,340	TRANS. ELECTRICITY	12.5	6.12	4	1213	17019	2.45	2.55
2,460	2,090	SHIPPING LINES	15.5	4.89	3	910	2420	2.65	2.66
1,530	950	SHIP. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	97	93056	14137	1.53	1.55
810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	1	5000	2500	0.51	0.51
2,730	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. MGMT.	7.6	0.00	2	5500	15950	2.90	3.90
1,320	920	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
2,230	1,630	UNION BK. SERV. INV.	9	6.55	2	3000	3330	1.15	1.16
SERVICE SECTION TOTALS INDEX: 107.27 CHNG: -0.15 149 144834 212295									
4,480	2,070	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.3	2.72	39	75757	106996	4.04	4.05
10,250	8,850	JOR. PETRO. SUPPLY	9.5	8.03	12	1711	1708	9.82	9.84
2,380	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COM. SERV.	9	0.00	5	357	428	1.73	1.67
4,100	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	5.12	14	2024	7907	3.92	3.91
7,250	7,250	AL-JORDAN TRD. CO.	6.8	3.13	2	15000	9000	6.80	6.80
2,570	2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	8.1	10.19	1	100	340	3.40	3.40
1,830	1,110	JOR. PIPELINE MGMT.	15.6	5.97	2	880	1139	1.34	1.14
5,630	4,380	JOR. ALUMIN. IND.	12.5	4.88	6	950	4854	8.00	8.02
980	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.5	0.00	7	2950	1778	1.45	1.45
1,110	1,000	ARAB PAPER MFG. CO.	30.6	0.00	2	2250	1150	1.00	1.00
1,330	510	JORDAN PETRO. SUPPLY	9	0.00	2	2050	1065	0.53	0.52
1,040	580	JOR. NUCLEAR IND.	9	0.00	2	500	270	0.54	0.54
980	540	JOR. SULPHUR CHEN.	17.0	5.98	7	800	1078	1.34	1.33
2,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	5.12	14	2024	7907	3.92	3.91
2,020	1,240	UNIV. HOSP. SERV.	7	2.3	7	2900	2809	1.16	1.11
1,520	1,050	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	11.6	9.90	37	47550	47712	3.05	1.01
1,600	1,380	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	5.00	5	10000	11999	1.38	1.40
1,090	810	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	8	5000	5600	1.12	1.13
1,290	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.0	0.00	5	7750	6750	0.87	0.80
INDUSTRIAL SECTION TOTALS INDEX: 116.71 CHNG: -0.07 176 186881 528646									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 163.59 CHNG: -0.16 521 403093 1564560									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 14/07/1997									
640	350	CHEVRON OIL STORAGE	9	0.00	4	10300	3863	0.37	0.37
670	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	13	15700	16388	1.42	1.43
1,550	1,070	SABA FOR INVESTMENT	47.3	0.00	7	41000	47100	1.18	1.18
950	580	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
840	660	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	3	4372	786	0.68	0.68
650	370	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
950	720	AL-JORDAN TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	26500	13250	7.5	7.5
950	810	AL-JORDAN TRD. CO.	59.5	0.00	5	15700	6179	0.63	0.62
480	200	JOR. ALUMIN. IND.	12.5	0.00	6	4000	1080	0.27	0.27
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MFG.	9	0.00	7	12200	6404	0.53	0.52
550	380	ARAB INTL. INV. MGMT.	43.8	0.00	6	1028	390	0.39	0.38
720	460	WTL - PETROLE	9	0.00	2	300	139	0.48	0.47
750	400	WTL - PETROLE	9	0.00	35	56450	28896	0.83	0.80
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
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600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
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680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73
680	540	BATEL - CABLES	13.3	0.00	1	4000	1317	0.33	0.35
600	350	JOR. NAT. BANK	15.9	0.00	1	450	1580	3.70	3.51
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	32.0	8.88	3	1000	730	0.74	0.72
950	630	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	10.8	0.00	7	5000	2803	0.46	0.44
1,320	1,080	UNION TRD. CO.	6.8	0.00	5	7500	5380	0.75	0.73

France to face Netherlands in Fed Cup final

Hingis leads Switzerland into World Group; Japan relegated

PARIS (Agencies) — France will play the Netherlands in the final of the Fed Cup after hard-fought victories over Belgium and the Czech Republic respectively in the semi-finals this weekend.

France, under the expert eye of winning 1996 Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah, reached their first Fed Cup final with a 3-2 win over Belgium.

Nathalie Tauziat and Alexandra Fusai clinched the decisive doubles in a three-set thriller in nice.

Miriam Oremans was the Netherlands' heroine in Prague.

She narrowly defeated Adriana Gers of the Czech Republic to level the tie at 2-2 before teaming up with Manon Bollegraf to secure the decisive doubles 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) over Wimbledon singles finalist Jana Novotna and Eva Martincova.

France had lost eight semi-finals in this women's team event since 1964 but finally buried their jinx with a gutsy display against near-neighbours Belgium.

Level at 1-1 overnight, the French took control of the tie when Sandrine Testud defeated Sabine Appelmans 6-2, 6-4.

However, the Belgians levelled the match at 2-2 when Dominique Van Roost proved far too strong for Fusai, who had upset Appelmans in Saturday's singles. Van Roost, who had beaten Testud on Saturday, saw off Fusai 6-3, 6-3.

The experienced Nathalie Tauziat then teamed up with Fusai to seal France's place in the final, though they were made to fight against Els Callens and Van Roost.

The Belgians took the first set before succumbing 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, though they saved three match points at 3-5 in the decider.

"When I returned those three match points into the net it was the worst I had returned in two years," said Tauziat. "But luckily it went right in the end."

Noah said: "Nathalie started badly but I knew she could do better. She knew what to do in the final set."

In Prague Novotna, suffering from injured stomach muscles, got the hosts off to a flier with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 win over fellow big-server Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, putting the Czech's 2-1 up.

However, world number 1 Oremans saved the



Martina Hingis of Switzerland returns a ball during her match against Florencia Labat of Argentina in the Fed Cup World Group II tie between Switzerland and Argentina in Zurich (Reuters photo)

Dutch with a nail biting 1-6, 6-2, 9-7 defeat of Gers, who suffered thigh cramps from 6-5 in the third set.

Oremans followed that up by winning the doubles, inflicting more heartbreak on Novotna, who had also thrown away a winning position in losing to Martina Hingis in the singles final at Wimbledon a week ago.

In the Group One playoffs Spain defeated Australia 3-2 at Hope Island, with comfortable singles victories for Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Maria Luisa Serna on the final day proving decisive in preserving the Spaniards' Group One status.

Sanchez Vicario beat Annabel Ellwood 6-2, 6-0 and Serna was a 6-1, 6-3 winner over Rachel McQuillan, putting the Spaniards 3-1 up.

Germany's doubles team of Anke Huber and Meike Babel went to the brink before clinching a 7-6 (7/4), 6-7 (4/7), 6-1 win over French Open winner Iva Majoli and Mirjana Lucic of Croatia, giving the Germans victory 3-2 in Frankfurt.

However, world number 1 Oremans saved the

United States swept Japan 5-0 in a Fed Cup relegation tie.

Davenport beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) to ensure the United States would advance into the Championship Group for the 1998 Fed Cup.

Po beat Naoko Sawamatsu 6-2, 6-4, and Davenport paired with Lisa Raymond to beat Nana Miyagi and Naoko Kijimuta 6-4, 6-4 to complete a 5-0 sweep.

The U.S. team, whose status was in doubt after an opening-round loss this year, rose to 3-0 in Fed Cup play against Japan, which was relegated into Group Two for next year.

Davenport won her 18th of 20 career Fed Cup matches to ensure the U.S. team would not be the first to win the title and fail to qualify for the World Group the following year.

Davenport won in 97 minutes, 40 more than Saturday when she beat Naoko Sawamatsu 6-1, 6-3. Sugiyama fell to Mary Joe Fernandez 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, in her earlier match and squandered leads against Davenport.

"I didn't stay aggressive enough," Sugiyama said. "Lindsay played deep and good so I couldn't attack. I should attack. But Lindsay hits the ball so hard I couldn't come forward enough."

Lindsay's stroke was so good. If I came to the net, I knew she would pass me."

Davenport broke Sugiyama in the ninth game, smashing two service returns that Sugiyama could only backhand into the net. Davenport had fallen behind 3-1 and buried her racquet into the air in frustration before rallying.

In the second set, Sugiyama pulled ahead but Davenport broke back in the seventh game. Sugiyama sprained her ankle in the ninth game, but still managed to force a tie-breaker, although she took only the fifth point.

"Lindsay's strokes were so hard in that final tie-breaker that I just couldn't return well enough," Sugiyama said.

U.S. captain Martina Navratilova said Japan's lack of aggressive play was the deciding factor in the tie. "She could be a much better player if she attacked more at the net. She's a much better player when she becomes aggressive and attacks," Navratilova said.

"The Japanese are stuck in the Chris Evert mold. They just sit back on the baseline. If I was their coach, I would tell them to break that mold and attack more."

The ruling mainly affects the United States which has strict rules on qualification for major championships, allowing only the top three in the national trials to make the team.

But now Johnson, sprinters Gail Devers and Gwen Torrence plus decathlete Dan O'Brien, who all missed or failed to finish at the trials, will be allowed to take part.

Brad Hunt, the agent for Johnson, Torrence and O'Brien immediately confirmed that the trio would compete in Athens.

"They will be there," he said.

2nd Division Basketball Group A matches heat up competition

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

the first division as of the 1998 season.

The rest of the teams will be classified in the Second Division and the Third Division will thus be cancelled next season.

The Jordan Basketball Federation rules stipulate that Second Division teams be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

Group A includes mostly teams from the capital who seem to have the better chance of winning the competition.

Homenetmen have the most experi-

enced yet inconsistent lineup who won the second division whenever they were relegated except for the past two years when Al Yarmouk and Al Hussein replaced them atop the second division and were promoted.

Gazet Hashem, Al Ashrafieh and Raya are the top teams in Group B and are serious contenders for the sole qualifying berth to the First Division which now includes Jazireh, Ahli, Orthodori, Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team, Al Watani and Yarmouk were relegated to the second division this year.

Standings

Group A

TEAM	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Al Jeel	3	3	-	216	145	6
Abu Nusair	3	2	1	186	166	5
Homenetmen	3	2	1	148	115	5
Wihdat	2	1	1	144	127	3
Shihan 3	-	3	-	216	3	-
*Fubeis	pulled out of competition					

Group B (up to 13/7/97)

TEAM	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Raya	3	3	-	184	104	6
Ashrafieh	3	3	-	181	89	6
G. Hashem	3	1	2	139	130	5
Ebbin	3	1	2	119	128	4
Qamim	3	1	2	135	153	4
Sama	3	-	3	63	209	3

IAAF gives wild cards to world champions

LONDON (R) — The international Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) will allow reigning champions to compete at next month's world championships even if they have not been selected by their national federation.

The decision to give wild cards to defending champions was announced by the IAAF in Monaco on Monday. Double Olympic champion Michael Johnson will now be able to run at the Athens event although he missed the U.S. trials due to injury and was not selected for the American team.

Johnson won the 200 and 400 metres at the 1995 Gothenburg World Championships and repeated the double at last year's Atlanta Olympics.

The ruling mainly affects the United States which has strict rules on qualification for major championships, allowing only the top three in the national trials to make the team.

But now Johnson, sprinters Gail Devers and Gwen Torrence plus decathlete Dan O'Brien, who all missed or failed to finish at the trials, will be allowed to take part.

Brad Hunt, the agent for Johnson, Torrence and O'Brien immediately confirmed that the trio would compete in Athens.

"They will be there," he said.



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (R) celebrates with Alfredo Berti on a goal scored by teammate Sebastian Rambert of Boca Juniors during a national championship match against Racing Club in Buenos Aires (Reuters photo)

Maradona makes another comeback

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's ageing idol Diego Maradona returned to bask once more in his own legend Sunday, officially making his fifth comeback to soccer before worshipping Boca Juniors fans and leading his team to a 3-2 victory over Racing Club.

The Boca Juniors stadium in the rough port district of Buenos Aires was packed with supporters anxious to see a great player whose every game threatens to be his last, at least until his next comeback.

Maradona did not put in a great performance, which these days is hardly expected of him, but he fired up the troubled Boca Juniors team, stuck in the middle of the Argentine first division table with the season nearly over, and gave the public nearly an hour of his exulted presence.

Today's venerable Maradona does not seem to run after the ball much, but the other players dutifully passed to him as much as possible and his touch in the set-pieces was masterful.

A wicked, curling ball from a free-kick outside the area on right field two-thirds into the first half was just deflected by Racing's Argentine national team goalkeeper Ignacio Gonzalez. Minutes later, Maradona booted a similar free-kick from left field, plopping the ball just in front of Nestor Fabbrì, who headed it down and into the goal to put Boca up 3-1.

It was Maradona's first official league game for almost a year. His short-frame, which usually shows plain evidence of a well-known liking for pizza, is 24 pounds (11 kg) lighter thanks to a tough fitness programme in Canada under the supervision of sprinter Ben Johnson.

Johnson, like Maradona, shares the shame of a drug ban from sport. An earlier Maradona comeback was foiled in a humiliating fashion when he was expelled from the 1994 world cup finals in the United States after his urine tested positive for a stimulant.

The hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph has since struggled with a confessed cocaine problem, and his last comeback with Boca petered out as he gradually stopped bothering to show up for matches last year.

This time round, Maradona says he is serious. He will not play the remaining three fixtures this season to concentrate on getting ready for the new season which starts August 24.

All past sins were forgiven Sunday night. The other Boca players, generally little more organised on the pitch than Maradona's social life, charged around with the conviction that the force was with them.

But Maradona's distinctive bow-legged gait became more exaggerated as the match wore on and he slowed down, particularly after being fouled hard in the shin late in the first half. Eventually it was too much for his 36-year-old frame, and Maradona charged off the field to an ovation 10 minutes into the second half, crossed himself, got a kiss from grateful trainer Hector Veira, and that was all, folks.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

TAKE THE SAFE WAY HOME

1. A vulnerable, South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ A 5 5			
♥ K 7 4			
♦ K 4			
♣ A 10 5 3			
WEST			
♠ J 7			
♥ 9 8 5 2			
♦ J 9 8 7 6 5			
♣ A K			
EAST			
♠ 10 9 6 3			
♥ A Q J 10 3			
♦ 2			
♣ J 9 2			
SOUTH			
♠ K Q 4 2			
♥ 2			
♦ A 10 3			
♣ A Q 7 6 4			

The annual match between Britain's House of Lords and House of Commons produces some good bridge. In particular, Lord Lever and Smith are talented players. Lord Smith had no trouble with this one.

The Duke of Atholl did well to rid him from three no trump, which

would have had no play after a heart lead and failed in the other room, in favor of four clubs. After a slam probe, Lord Smith wisely decided that game was high enough.

West led a diamond. Since there was no way to avoid losing a heart trick, the contract hinged on limiting the trump losers to one. Most players, offered the chance to take a finesse, would do so without giving the hand much thought. Lord Smith was too seasoned a campaigner to fall into that trap.

The first trick was won in hand with the ten and the safety play of the ace of clubs was taken. When that failed the long declarer called the queen of trumps, then conceded a trump and heart to land the game.

Note that, without the safety play, the contract will be defeated. The club finesse will lose, and the spots are such that declarer must lose a second trump trick as well as the ace of hearts.

What if the king doesn't drop under the ace? Declarer crosses to dummy with the ace of spades and leads a club toward the queen. The contract is safe if trumps are 2-2 or if East holds the king of clubs.

Japan relegated

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CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Tom Cruise... in

JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Sargsian beats Steven for 1st ATP title

NEWPORT (R) — Fifth seed Sargis Sargsian of Armenia picked up his first career ATP Tour title Sunday by outdueling eighth seed Brett Steven of New Zealand 7-6 (7-0) 4-6 7-5 in the final of the \$255,000 Hall of Fame tennis championships.

The 24-year-old Sargsian, the 1995 U.S. National Collegiate singles champion while attending Arizona State, earned a first prize of \$36,200.

The 28-year-old Steven, ranked 90th in the world, was also seeking his first career ATP Tour title. He had knocked off second seed Mark Woodforde and third seed Grant Stafford en route to his first final since appearing in his native Auckland in 1996.

Defending champion Nicolas Pietrangola of Venezuela did not enter as he represented his country in Davis Cup qualifying this weekend.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Adelaide to host soccer at Olympics

SYDNEY (R) — Adelaide was named on Monday as the first of four Australian cities outside Sydney to have reached a deal with Olympic organisers on hosting soccer matches at the 2000 Games. A qualifying group will be based at Hindmarsh Stadium, a 20,000-capacity ground in the South Australia state capital shared by National League clubs Adelaide City and West Adelaide, organisers said. Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra, the national capital, were expected to host the other three qualifying groups — although Games organisers said there was still some uncertainty over Melbourne's plan to use a stadium still to be built. Sydney will stage two preliminary round matches, one quarter-final and semifinal, the final and bronze medal play-off match, organisers said.

Rodman loses pro wrestling debut

DAYTONA BEACH (R) — Dennis Rodman, the National Basketball Association leader in rebounds and fines, got to attack a referee Sunday night in his unsuccessful debut as a professional wrestler. Rodman and Hulk Hogan lost their tag team match against Lex Luger and Giant, with Rodman kicking the referee out of the ring. "That was an acting debut," he said following the match. "I'm really an athlete," at which, Hogan grabbed a reporter by the neck and forced him out of the dressing room. Rodman was suspended three times for 14 games and paid \$87,500 in fines as a member of the NBA champion Chicago Bulls last season.

Ginola set for Spurs move

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle star David Ginola is set to move to Premiership rivals Tottenham Hotspur, his agent Michel Benguigui confirmed Monday. The French ace has agreed personal terms with Tottenham Chairman Alan Sugar after weekend talks on Sugar's yacht at Villefranche in the south of France. "David met with Alan Sugar on Sunday and they have settled the personal terms of the move," Benguigui told AFP. "The two clubs need to finalise a fee but David will have a medical on Tuesday and should link up with the other Tottenham players on their pre-season tour of Norway on the Wednesday." Ginola, who has found himself on the sidelines at Newcastle since Kenny Dalglish replaced Kevin Keegan as manager last season, is valued at 2.6 million pounds (about \$4.3 million).

China sets 10th weightlifting record

YANGZHOU (AFP) — World records continued to tumble at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here Monday, with China's Wang Yanmei setting a new mark in the women's 83-kilo snatch. Wang's victory, which came after a titanic struggle with Chinese Taipei's Chen Hsiao-Lien, marked the 10th world record to fall to Chinese weightlifters at the championships. Wang snatched 112.5 kilograms (247.5 pounds) to secure first place and break the new world record of 110 kilograms set minutes earlier by Chen.

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Kawar secures silver medal on 2nd day of 8th Pan-Arab Games

Jordan slated to host event in 1999 or 2001

By Aileen Bannayan
and JSYIF press committee

JORDAN'S NADA KAWAR Monday secured a silver medal for Jordan when she scored 15.66 metres in the shot put on the second day of the 8th Pan-Arab Games which opened in Beirut Saturday.

The medal was Jordan's third after Kawar won a gold medal in the discus Sunday and Amal Matari won a bronze in the women's marathon. Amer Natour later added a bronze medal for Jordan in fencing.

Kawar, whose main event is the shot put in which she holds the Arab record at 17.39, was clearly disappointed as her throw was 4 centimetres shorter than Wafa' Ismail of Egypt who got 15.70 to take the gold.

In other results by Jordanians, Tareq Najjar came in sixth in the discus with 42.49 metres, while Mohammad Shaman was sixth in the 400 metres with a time of 48.28 seconds.

The Games had got off to a late start Sunday after a night of unprecedented festivities in post-war Lebanon.

A mother of three from Algeria won the first gold medal of the Games on Sunday, clocking 1:26:40 in the 21-kilometre women's marathon.

Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

On the sidelines of the competition, Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 or 2001 and the Secretary General of the Arab Sports Federation (ASF) Othman Sa'ad said a committee from the ASF would visit the Kingdom soon for talks with Jordanian officials.

Sa'ad added that the date had not yet been decided and it could be either in 1999 or 2001.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 19 countries are taking part in the Beirut Games with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

The weightlifting competition begins here Tuesday with Ayed Khawaldeh competing in the 54-kilogramme category.

Khawaldeh, who holds the gold medal in the 1996 Arab Youth Championship, told the press committee he was optimistic he could win first place. "I can already visualise the gold medal," he said.

Officials were happy with the 1-1 soccer draw with Lebanon and hoped the team would continue to do well in their upcoming match against Libya Thursday.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes

Schedule of events of Jordanian competitors at the 8th Pan-Arab Games for Tuesday July 15, 1997

- Weightlifting Ayed Khawaldeh
- Basketball Jordan-Egypt (women's match)
- Boxing Preliminary round
- Athletics Ala' Abdul Hadi (high jump)
Mohammad Abdul Baqi (triple jump)
Mohammad Shaman (200 metres semifinal)

letes will be competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

Drug testing was introduced for the first time since the Arab Games were launched in 1953, in line with international rules. All gold medalists are being tested for performance-enhancing drugs, as is one other competitor selected in a draw in each event.

Lebanon is hosting the Arab world's premier sports event for the first time since the second Arab Games in 1957.

Jordanian sports officials have underlined

the importance of taking part in the event which has only been held seven times since 1953.

But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brotherhood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of angering Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, highlighting once again the influence of politics over sports.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze).

The Kingdom's first and only gold medal in a team sport came in Morocco in 1985 when Jordan won the basketball event after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final.

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Brochard wins 9th stage of Tour de France

LOUDEVILLE, France. (AFP) — French climbing specialist Laurent Brochard won the ninth stage of the Tour de France as the field placings were shaken up dramatically, but it was German Jan Ullrich who looked the smoothest cyclist in the peloton.

Though Frenchman Cedric Vasseur retained the overall leader's Yellow jersey, Ullrich, runner-up last year, looked calm and assured as he finished fourth in the stage and just 13 seconds behind overall.

The 23-year-old Ullrich, one of the last graduates from the East German Academy, was only stopped from inflicting more inroads into Vasseur's lead by loyalty to his team leader Bjarne Riis, last year's winner, who was suffering on the final climb.

Monday's 182km opening stage in the foggy Pyrenees in south western France allowed the climbers to take centre stage.

The 29-year-old Brochard, leader in the king of the mountains category, led with 15km left after overhauling teammate Pascal Hervé — who had broken away on about 70km. Then Ullrich, Marco Pantani, who won the Alpe d'Huez stage two years ago, and Brochard's team leader Richard Virenque, three-times winner of the king of the mountains, shot past Brochard on the final climb.

"I suffered a bout of cramp on the final few hundred metres from the summit and all I aimed to do was try and make up the gap on the three leaders on the descent," Brochard said. Urged on by Virenque, Brochard then overtook the leading three on the descent to Loudenvielle and this time held on to his advantage to win the stage.

"I told Laurent to attack when he rejoined us on the descent. It's a great day for the team," Virenque said.

"I am amazed how the field split apart today as it's only the first day in the mountains and I have gained time on people who I would have thought would have been up there with me."

Basketball event gets underway

Kawar might join Kingdom's women's team against Egypt today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE MEN'S BASKETBALL competition got underway at the Arab Games Monday with hosts Lebanon meeting Qatar, and Saudi Arabia taking on Morocco.

After slight rescheduling of the matches at Antrun Stadium Jordan's first match against Libya was forwarded from Tuesday to 10:00 p.m. Monday evening but the result was unavailable by press time.

Jordan is in Group 1 with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Morocco. Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. The top two teams in each group will contest the semifinal round starting July 23.

Jordan's team officials at the Games twice protested at the men's basketball draw since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, the objection was not accepted by Lebanese officials who said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw it would not be accepted now.

While the basketball federation had threatened to pull out of both the men's and women's events if the draw was not repeated, the head of the Kingdom's delegation to the Games Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not withdraw from any event since that is no longer the affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team clinched the gold medal in the 1985 Games in Morocco.

They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

While team members are optimistic about their chances of an advanced standing and winning a medal for Jordan, tough competition lies ahead and the team will have to put up a big effort and keep key players in the games taking into account the relatively inexperienced lineup representing the Kingdom.

Jordan's men's team will have to finish first or second in their group to qualify for the second round. The team is trained by a new Ukrainian coach and the players form was inconsistent when they won only one out of three friendly matches against Syria two weeks ago.

With big names like Hilar Barakat, Yousef Zaghloul, Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Ma'touq missing from the lineup the team includes Fadi Saqqa, Yousef Abu Bakr, Husam Lutfi, Ma'an Odeh, Naser Alawneh, Faisal Nsour, and Mahmoud Sba'ban who were boosted by the arrival from the U.S. of Zeid Alkhas, a key player who has just returned from Korea after taking an impressive performance in the Asian All-Star game to which he was chosen during the 1995 Asian Championships.

Jordan, Egypt play tonight in women's event

As women's basketball starts tonight grouping only five teams — Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan — reports from Beirut said Nada Kawar, an avid player who has won the discus gold and shot put silver medals, might join the basketball team matches if her coach gives her the go ahead.

Officials said Kawar who resides in the U.S. and is preparing to take part in the Athletics World Championship in Athens next month was

awaiting word from her U.S. coach to join the basketball team where one of the players will be dropped and Kawar's name registered.

Syria will face hosts Lebanon in the opening match Tuesday when the Kingdom's team plays Egypt at 8:00 p.m.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Jumana Salfi, who was chosen as one of the Asian Championships' top players in 1995 will lead the women's basketball team who were also unimpressive in matches against Syria losing three of their friendly matches.

The team was, however, given the go-ahead to take part in the Games by the Minister of Youth and Sports who prompted the JOC to include them to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championship.

Jordan's basketball schedule

Mon. 14/7	Libya-Jordan (men)
Tue. 15/7	Jordan-Egypt (women)
Wed. 16/7	Jordan-Saudi Arabia (men)
Thurs. 17/7	Syria-Jordan (women)
Fri. 18/7	Jordan-Morocco (men)
Sat. 19/7	Jordan-Tunisia (women)
Sun. 20/7	Lebanon-Jordan (women)
	Jordan-Syria (men)
Wed. 23/7	5th & 6th places (men)
	7th & 8th places
Thurs. 24/7	semifinal round
Fri. 25/7	3rd & 4th places
Sat. 26/7	final match

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Arafat to investigate Russian Orthodox monastery dispute

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has promised the White Russian Orthodox church he will investigate the expulsion of their monks and nuns from a West Bank monastery, officials said Monday.

Ibrahim Qandalaft, Mr. Arafat's adviser for Christian affairs, told AFP the Palestinian leader had received a delegation from the U.S.-based church led by Father Victor Potapov over the weekend.

He said Father Potapov, rector of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Washington, had demanded the return of Abraham's Oak monastery in Hebron.

Palestinian police evicted the occupants of the

monastery in a raid 10 days ago and handed the building over to the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox church.

The "White" and "Red" factions of the church have been in conflict since the 1917 communist revolution in Russia, and for many years the Moscow patriarchate has been demanding the return of all its property in the Holy Land.

"President Arafat has promised the rights of everyone will be respected and that he will take personal charge of the issue," said Mr. Qandalaft.

He said the U.S.-based church claimed it owned the monastery and that its monks and nuns had lived there since 1917, but that the Moscow-based patriarchate has the actual deeds to the property.

According to Qandalaft, Mr. Arafat denied during the meeting that Palestinian police had used force to expel the church officials from the monastery — the only Christian building in Hebron.

Several nuns and monks living in the monastery claimed they were beaten and mistreated by Palestinian police during the raid on July 5.

When Moscow Patriarch Alexei II visited Abraham's Oak last month he was refused entry. But Father Potapov told the Jerusalem Post newspaper the action had not been approved by his church's headquarters in New York.

Earlier this week members of the U.S.-based church said Mr. Arafat's wife Suha, a Christian, had taken up their case.

Western media team assails journalist beatings in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A Western media delegation Monday called on the Turkish government to end police brutality aimed at journalists.

"Police and security forces should be controlled and penalised for beatings," Terry Anderson, vice-chairman of the New York-based committee to protect journalists, told Deputy Premier Bulent Ecevit.

"Journalists are beaten and even killed by security forces. These are unacceptable practices in a democratic country," added Mr. Anderson, a former Associated Press bureau chief who was held hostage for nearly seven years by Islamists in Lebanon.

Police beat 156 journalists covering news events in the past year, according to a Turkish press report. A

reporer, Merin Goktepe, died in police custody last year.

Mr. Ecevit, a former journalist who served a jail term for his writings under a military regime in the early 1980s, promised to stop police violence against journalists.

"We shall certainly prevent every kind of torture and physical pressure on journalists," Mr. Ecevit said.

Mr. Ecevit also reaffirmed his government's commitment to complete legal amendments by the end of the month to allow the release of some two dozen imprisoned journalists, out of 89 in jail.

The government argues that some journalists are not only jailed for their writings but for their involvement in terrorist activities.

Turkish laws give officials

wide latitude to declare writings and speeches terrorist propaganda. Most of the jailed journalists were charged with crimes related to a terror campaign by Kurdish separatists.

Mr. Anderson also suggested that the authorities interpret such laws more loosely.

"We're not asking special privileges for journalists. The law is the law, but surely there is room in the interpretation for judgement," Mr. Anderson said.

Correspondent Peter Arnett of CNN, International Press Institute's Director Johann Fritz and Robert Menard, general secretary of Reporters Sans Frontieres, are part of the delegation, which is being led by Mr. Anderson.

Amid change in Iran, dissident thinker gets acclaim and threats

TEHRAN (AP) — The last time Abdul Karim Soroush lectured at Tehran University, thousands turned out to hear him.

But in the exuberant crowd was a rowdy group of pro-government toughs carrying a noose. Their idea: lynch the gentle, bespectacled professor on the spot. He barely got away.

Such is the reaction to the ideas of Mr. Soroush, Iran's leading dissident thinker, who is asking the dangerous questions that the Islamic republic's mullahs would prefer not to hear.

His thoughts have made him one of Iran's most beloved and reviled figures — and his precarious survival is a symbol of the fragile political freedom in today's Iran.

Prominent in Iran since the 1979 revolution that toppled the monarchy, Mr. Soroush disputes what the clergy considers their God-given right to be the sole interpreters of Islam, a role they use to justify their rule.

In large part, Mr. Soroush's ideas are part of a growing protest of the clerics' hardline rule. One face of that protest showed up in the May presidential election in which a moderate reformer, Mohammad Khatami, routed the establishment's candidate.

Mr. Soroush is another face, the intellectual side.

His supporters see him as the architect of an Islamic renaissance. But he poses a serious threat to a religious establishment struggling to justify itself to the majority of Iran's 60 million people who have been born since the Shah's ouster.

Within the clergy's ranks, no one can match the charisma of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late religious leader who led the Islamic revolution then held its disparate and often competing elements

together through its turbulent first 10 years.

That leadership void provides an opening for the radical ideas of Mr. Soroush.

Once an ideologue of the new Islamic establishment in the early 1980s, Mr. Soroush now insists religion should teach submission to God and cannot be reduced to a mundane ideology to govern — a message almost the reverse of the ideas he once preached.

"Islam, or any religion, will become totalitarian if it is made into an ideology, because that is the nature of ideologies," Mr. Soroush, 52, said in an interview.

Like other Muslims, Mr. Soroush considers the Koran, Islam's holy book, to be God's word. But he also believes the clergy's interpretation of it has little to do with religion and more to do with preserving their power and interests.

"The clergy earns its living from religion. If your interests are secured through religion, then you will defend your interests first and religion will become secondary," Mr. Soroush said.

His writings, which say every believer is entitled to his own understanding of Islam, are widely read by Iran's university students, intellectuals and even members of the clergy. Many of his 20 or so books are best-sellers, and his numerous articles have an audience in other parts of the Muslim World.

"The young see Soroush as someone who offers something different from the traditional teachings of religious leaders or teachers," said Mohammad Hashemi, a law professor at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran.

Mr. Soroush, who studied chemistry in Britain and pharmacology and religion in Iran, bases his elaborate arguments on intellectual

influences ranging from the medieval to the modern.

The 13th century Persian mystic Jalaluddin Rumi is one. Like the iconoclastic Rumi, Mr. Soroush speaks of a lofty, liberating Islam that would hardly be recognised by most Muslim clergymen.

Some people describe Mr. Soroush as a Muslim Martin Luther King whose ideas could generate an Islamic reformation. They believe he offers an alternative to what they see as pedestrian debates over whether neckties or satellite dishes are permissible under Islam.

They also are inspired by his belief that Islam is compatible with democracy and human rights — concepts sometimes disparaged by conservative Muslim clergy as foreign.

Those ideas have landed him in trouble. His lectures used to draw thousands, but he stopped speaking for a while after he was beaten twice by pro-government militants last year. He says he narrowly escaped with his life when the lynch mob turned up at the Tehran University lecture a year ago.

Militants have also attacked the office of the monthly magazine Kiyan, which first published Mr. Soroush's ideas.

"The people punch individuals who say such things in the mouth," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, warned in an angry speech following the publication of one article.

Mr. Soroush recently returned after 11 months in Europe and the U.S., where he went to let things cool off at home. He has spoken just once since then, when he gave a lecture in June that drew 3,000 people.

"When I have an idea, I'm like a pregnant woman. I just have to deliver," Mr. Soroush said with a grin.



ROYALTY WITH A SPLASH: Britain's Princess Diana is taken for a jet-ski ride by an unidentified young girl Monday at the property of her friend Sheikh Al-Fayed in Saint-Tropez, French Riviera. Diana has been spending a few days on the Mediterranean coast with her sons (AFP photo)

Spaniards mourn slain politician

ERMUA (R) — Spain came to a virtual standstill Monday as the nation paid its last respects to a young politician kidnapped and brutally murdered by Basque separatist guerrillas.

While the funeral of 29-year-old Miguel Angel Blanco was broadcast live on national television, millions stopped work at noon to observe 10 minutes of silence, crowds stood motionless on city sidewalks and traffic came to a halt.

In Blanco's home town of Ermuia, where he was a popular town councillor, thousands lined the streets outside the crowded chapel where Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and Crown Prince Felipe joined grieving family members and friends.

Crowds, held back by red-jacketed Basque police, chanted "Miguel, Miguel, Miguel" and "Murderers" as his casket was carried through the cobblestone

streets of the small Basque town on the way to the cemetery.

Blanco's kidnapping and killing has sparked an angry outcry against ETA, which has waged a violent 29-year struggle for an independent homeland, and demonstrators have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers to express their outrage.

"With the barbarous assassination of Miguel Angel, terrorism has shown its face cold and filled with cruelty," Bishop Ricardo Blazquez told mourners at Blanco's funeral. "There is no justification for the murder of an innocent."

Blanco, a low-ranking member of Spain's ruling party, was kidnapped last Thursday by ETA guerrillas, who threatened to execute him in 48 hours if the government did not meet their demands.

He was found Saturday dumped on a mountain road

side outside the Basque city of San Sebastian, his hands tied behind his back and two bullets lodged in his brain. He slipped into a coma and died before dawn Sunday.

In a nationally televised address, Mr. Aznar vowed earlier Monday to intensify the fight against ETA, pledging "we will put a stop to terrorism."

"Without a doubt, we're going to win," he said. But Mr. Aznar warned his countrymen to brace for "painful days" ahead. "Those who only know how to kill, those who only know how to kidnap, will continue doing it," he said.

While Blanco's killing has sparked a furious backlash against ETA, a group of rebel supporters struck back early Monday in northern city of Pamplona.

About 50 youths wearing ski masks, attacked the doors of city hall, throwing rocks and bottles, officials said. Police intervened. At least

one person was injured.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out in more than a dozen Spanish cities overnight to demonstrate against ETA, with the largest protests in Madrid and the Basque cities of Bilbao, Vitoria and San Sebastian. Pope John Paul and other world leaders condemned the killing.

Reflecting a sense of national outrage at ETA's targeting of an ordinary citizen, Mr. Aznar promised that the government would work "without rest, fighting implacably and with the law in its hand ... against these assassins."

Mr. Aznar also lashed out angrily at ETA's political arm, Herri Batasuna, calling them "accomplices" to the murder and asking Spaniards to isolate them. Herri Batasuna holds seats in the Basque and Navarre regional parliaments and the National Congress.

Albright drives bargain with Russian hat vendor

TSARSKOYE SELO (R) — After failing to make a breakthrough in arms control negotiations with the Russians, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had more success bargaining to buy a fur hat from a street vendor. She succeeded in getting a modest discount after asking the trader whether his asking price was "the best you can do." Albright called a shopping break after spotting a row of stalls near the Catherine palace, a residence of the Romanov Tsars near St. Petersburg which she was touring at the end of a 19-hour visit to Russia.

U.S. navy officer arrested after restaurant brawl

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The U.S. navy warship Anzio left Stockholm Sunday after a port call without one of its officers, under arrest for brawling in a restaurant, police said. The unnamed officer was arrested Thursday after arriving drunk in the city centre restaurant, quarrelling with customers then hitting the proprietor twice in the face, police said, quoting witnesses. When police arrived the officer "defended himself violently," a spokesman said. Put in provisional custody, he was charged Saturday with violent behaviour, criminal damage and resisting the authorities. He will be tried in due course and faces a fine or up to a month's imprisonment.

Get out and exercise, conference tells obese

LONDON (R) — People have got to get out and exercise to stop an epidemic of obesity, experts will tell a conference in London this week. People are eating less, but still getting fat. That means exercise must be the key, Ken Fox of Exeter University said ahead of Tuesday's conference. "We know from national surveys that food and fat intake have remained the same or declined at a time when we have seen vast increases in the incidence of obesity," Dr. Fox said. "On the other hand our lifestyles have changed dramatically and inactivity is a root cause of our weight increase." Latest figures show that more than half of all Britons were overweight, with 18 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men clinically obese.

Curtain to fall on opera at London's Covent garden

LONDON (R) — The curtain falls on London's Covent Garden Opera House on Monday for a controversial 2-1/2 year redevelopment designed to transform the creaking 19th century theatre into an arts venue fit for the 21st century. For behind the red plush, the chandeliers and the sumptuous opera and ballet productions, the Royal Opera House is literally falling apart, its technical facilities and backstage area a relic of the horse-drawn era in which it was born.

British publisher offers Clinton coat of arms

LONDON (R) — An aristocratic British publisher unveiled the coat of arms it proposes for President Bill Clinton, saying he was the only head of a major country not to have some such "device of heraldry." Burke's peerage said it hoped to present the coat of arms to Clinton, either on velvet (calf skin) or parchment, "at a future date." Its design, which it is offering to amend at Clinton's behest, incorporates a range of symbols of the president's family and of the United States. His wife Hillary is represented by the red line of St. Hillary of Poitiers, France, and his daughter Chelsea by the anchor mark of the British China of that name.

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THE ONE AND ONLY IN JORDAN

FIVE AMERICAN RESTAURANTS IN ONE FOOD COURT

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Let your appetite guide your choices from any of our delicious five self service counters at the ground floor and enjoy your eating outside in a relaxing atmosphere at our patio seating area.

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DUNKIN' DONUTS

خمس وكابتيرات للخبزة الخفيفة

مع شهيتك نظرا ما يظلم لها من ايد

الخبزة المعروضة على خبزة كابتيرات وكبت

الخبزة الخفيفة في الجاني الارضي ومنج

بجسة خفيفة مميزة

مطالعة الخبزة المتكاملة المميزة

مطالعة خبزة متكاملة في الجاني العلوي

جبت تفصح لنا الجاني لخبزكم وتنحير

تشكيلة واسعة من الخبيزات المتوفرة

في مطالعة الخمس

BANANAS

JUICE BAR

خمس وكابتيرات للخبزة الخفيفة

مع شهيتك نظرا ما يظلم لها من ايد

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تشكيلة واسعة من الخبيزات المتوفرة

في مطالعة الخمس

EVERYTHING

YOGURT

DUNKIN' DONUTS

GRETTEL'S

PRETZELS

الشركة الكندية العالمية للمطاعم السياحية - دوار عبدون

THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TOURISTIC RESTAURANTS

ABDOON CIRCLE

Lebanese hurt in I

TIME (AFP) — Two Lebanese fighters were killed when Hizbollah fighters attacked the Israeli-occupied town of Tyre, security sources said. The town, which is a major port on the Mediterranean Sea, but caused an Israeli army spokesman to say that the town had been fired in two separate attacks. The Israeli army spokesman said that the town had been fired in two separate attacks. The Israeli army spokesman said that the town had been fired in two separate attacks.

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Govern

By Francesca C...

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Prince Hassan congratulates athletes

AMMAN (R) — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday congratulated the Jordanian team for its performance in the 8th Pan Arab Games in Beirut for good results. Prince Hassan wished them further success and better results.

Israel seriously hurt in Jerusalem shooting

TEL AVIV (R) — A 60-year-old Israeli man was seriously injured Monday night in a shooting in Jerusalem by an armed assailant who shot him in the neck. The victim was taken to a hospital where he is receiving intensive care in a life-threatening condition. Police are investigating the attack and it is unrelated to the recent violence.

Egypt seizes massive haul of smuggled gold

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian authorities seized a massive haul of smuggled gold in a passenger plane on Tuesday. The gold was found in a hidden compartment in the plane's cargo hold. The authorities are investigating the source of the gold and the people involved in the smuggling.

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Algeria

PARIS (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco has been elected to the 93-member Council of the Arab League for a two-year term. The king was elected by a vote of 66 to 27. The king's election was a significant victory for Morocco in the Arab world.